

# Nash County, NC

## Community Conversations 2024



### Background

Nash County, NC will receive nearly \$10 million from a \$1.5 billion opioid settlement. The county hosted five community conversations to gather public input on addressing the opioid epidemic.

### Key Challenges Identified

1. Limited access to inpatient treatment and detox facilities
2. Lack of insurance coverage or underinsurance
3. Transportation barriers to accessing resources and services
4. Insufficient collaboration among substance use support organizations
5. Stigma surrounding substance use disorders
6. Difficulty navigating complex treatment and recovery systems
7. Limited funding and resources for programs

### Primary Recommendation Themes

1. Education and Stigma Reduction
  - a. Implement community-wide education programs, especially for professionals and first responders
  - b. Increase visibility of recovery stories
2. Treatment and Support
  - a. Expand peer support services
  - b. Increase variety and accessibility of treatment options
  - c. Develop programs for specific populations (youth, non-English speakers, expecting mothers)
3. Navigation and Access to Care
  - a. Create centralized resource hubs and supports
  - b. Improve care coordination and warm hand-offs between services
  - c. Increase support for insurance navigation and basic needs
4. Overdose Prevention and Justice System Reform
  - a. Expand availability of overdose reversal drugs
  - b. Implement alternatives to incarceration (e.g., drug courts)
  - c. Provide re-entry support and resources

### Next Steps

1. The Assistant County Manager will lead efforts to implement comprehensive strategies to address opioid using, using this input to guide decisions.
2. Ongoing collaboration with local organizations and community leaders will be prioritized.

For updates on Nash County's opioid settlement planning and actions, visit:

<https://nashcountync.gov/788/Opioid-Settlement-Funds-Resources>