

**MORE THAN 8 PEOPLE DIE EACH DAY FROM AN OPIOID OVERDOSE IN NORTH CAROLINA.**

# **LET'S REVERSE THE TREND.**

Duke University School of Medicine's Opioid Collaboratory in partnership with Granville Vance Public Health, has released a "how to guide" on developing and implementing an office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) program. **Practical Guidance for Implementation of Office-based Opioid Treatment through Primary Care at Local Health Departments** focuses on developing a program that offers medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) through a local health department's primary care clinic or other office-based primary care clinic. The guide provides information on how to:

- Build an implementation team
- Design an OBOT program
- Fund an OBOT program

## **Why should we use medication for opioid use disorder?**

MOUD is currently the most effective, evidence-based approach for treating opioid use disorder and has been shown to reduce opioid use and prevent death. Medications such as buprenorphine or methadone help manage cravings and withdrawal symptoms from reduced or discontinued opioid usage.

## **Why involve local health departments and other office-based clinics?**

Access to MOUD remains low in many parts of the country, especially for the uninsured or under-insured. People in rural areas face even greater barriers to access. Establishing programs in local health departments and office-based clinics is a vital step for making MOUD more widely available and addressing the overdose epidemic.

## Can opioid settlement funds be used to support provision of MOUD?

Opioid Settlement Funds can be used to support MOUD and recovery support services! North Carolina's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) lists high-impact strategies that can be funded using opioid settlement dollars including (but not limited to):

1. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)\* – using medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and delivered through:
  - a. Opioid Treatment Programs
  - b. Qualified providers of OBOT
  - c. Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - d. Treatment offered in conjunction with justice system programs
  - e. Community-based programs offering evidence-based addiction treatment
2. Recovery support services including
  - a. Peer support specialists or care navigators
  - b. Harm reduction services
  - c. Primary healthcare

\*The term medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is sometimes used to describe the use of medication in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat OUD.

### More Info

For more information on what services opioid settlement funds can be used to support, visit:

<https://www.morepowerfulinc.org/opioid-settlements/nc-memorandum-of-agreement/>

## MOUD CAN HELP SAVE LIVES

Download the guide at [populationhealth.duke.edu/practiceguide](https://populationhealth.duke.edu/practiceguide) for more information on building an office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) program.