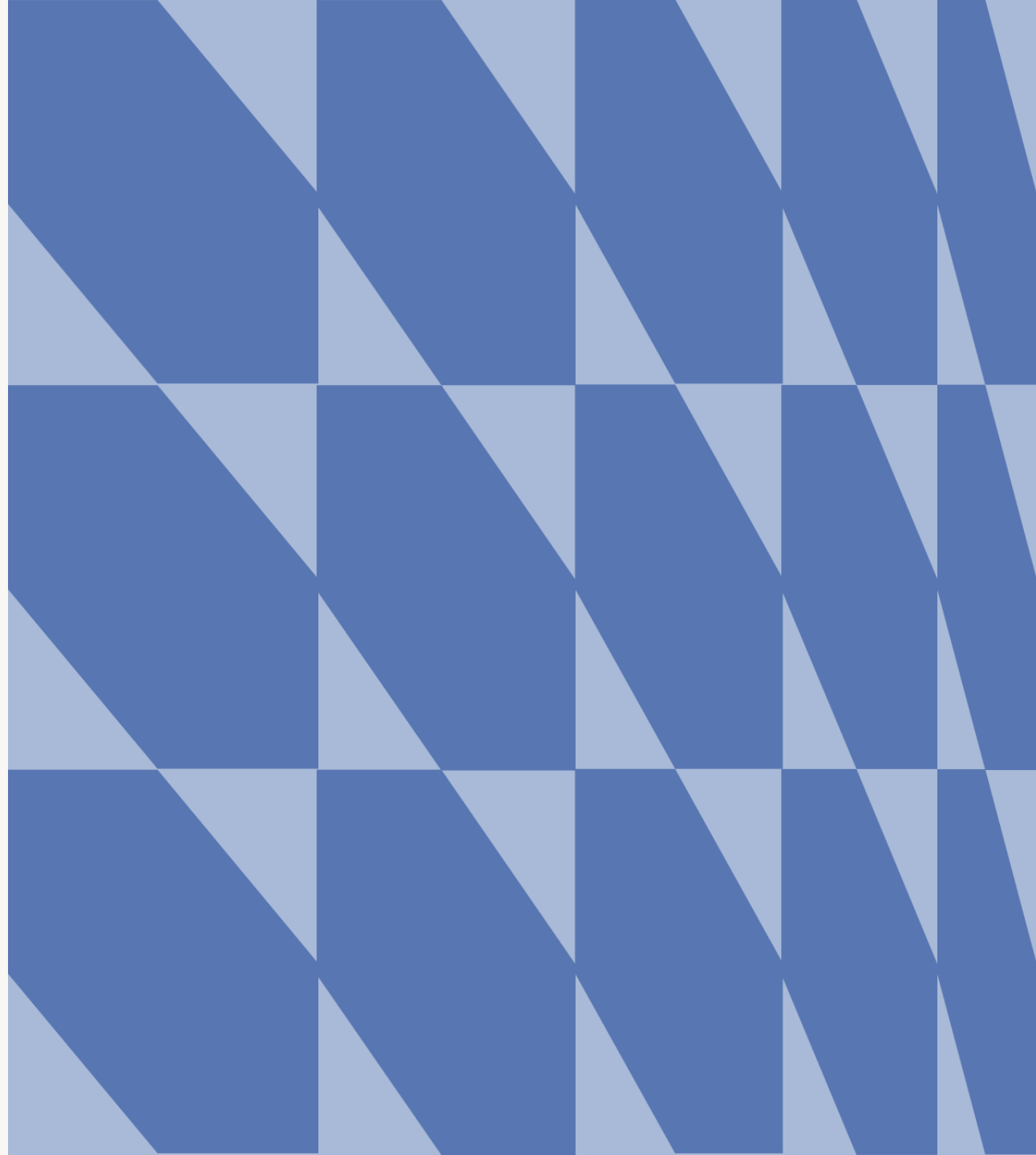




Wake County Youth and Family Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

June 15, 2026

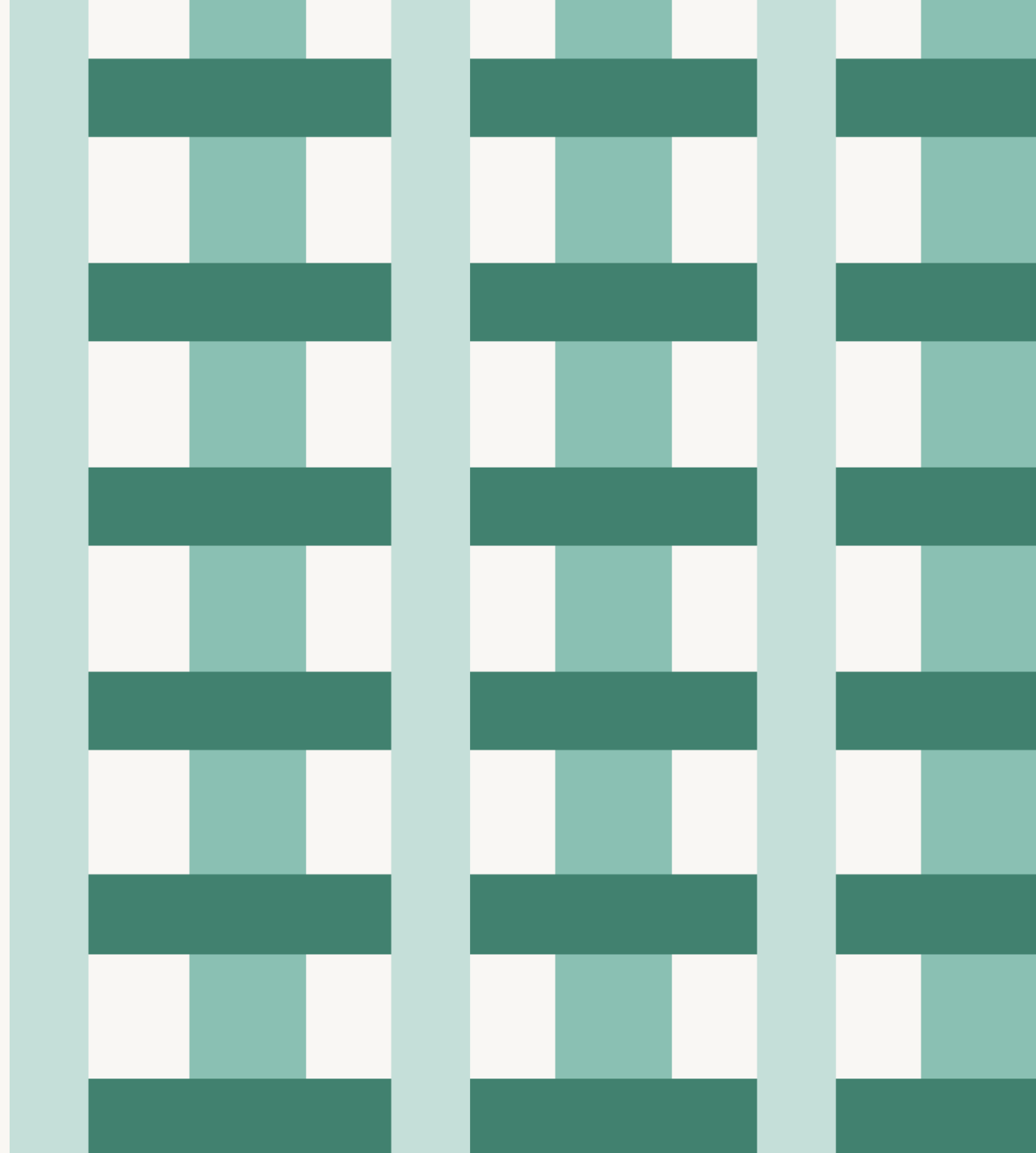


Agenda



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- 01** Who We Are
 - 02** Project Timeline
 - 03** Overview of Project Phases
 - 04** Q&A

Who We Are



About Omni

Omni Institute is a nonprofit social science consultancy that provides integrated research, evaluation, and capacity-building services to foster understanding, guide collaboration, and inform action to accelerate positive social change.

Omni's Role on the Project:

- Overall Project Management (Primary Point of Contact)
- Leading the Strengths and Needs Assessment and National Benchmarking
- Co-facilitating Strategic Planning Efforts
- Leading Strategic Plan Development



We believe in the power of data.

About Fact Forward

Fact Forward envisions a world where all youth and young adults have the opportunity of a healthy, bright, self-determined future.

Fact Forward's Role on the Project:

- Co-leading Youth and Family Advisory Group Development
- Co-leading Structured Engagement Sessions with the Wake County Community
- Co-leading Drafting of Engagement Outcomes Summary Report
- Co-facilitating Strategic Planning Efforts



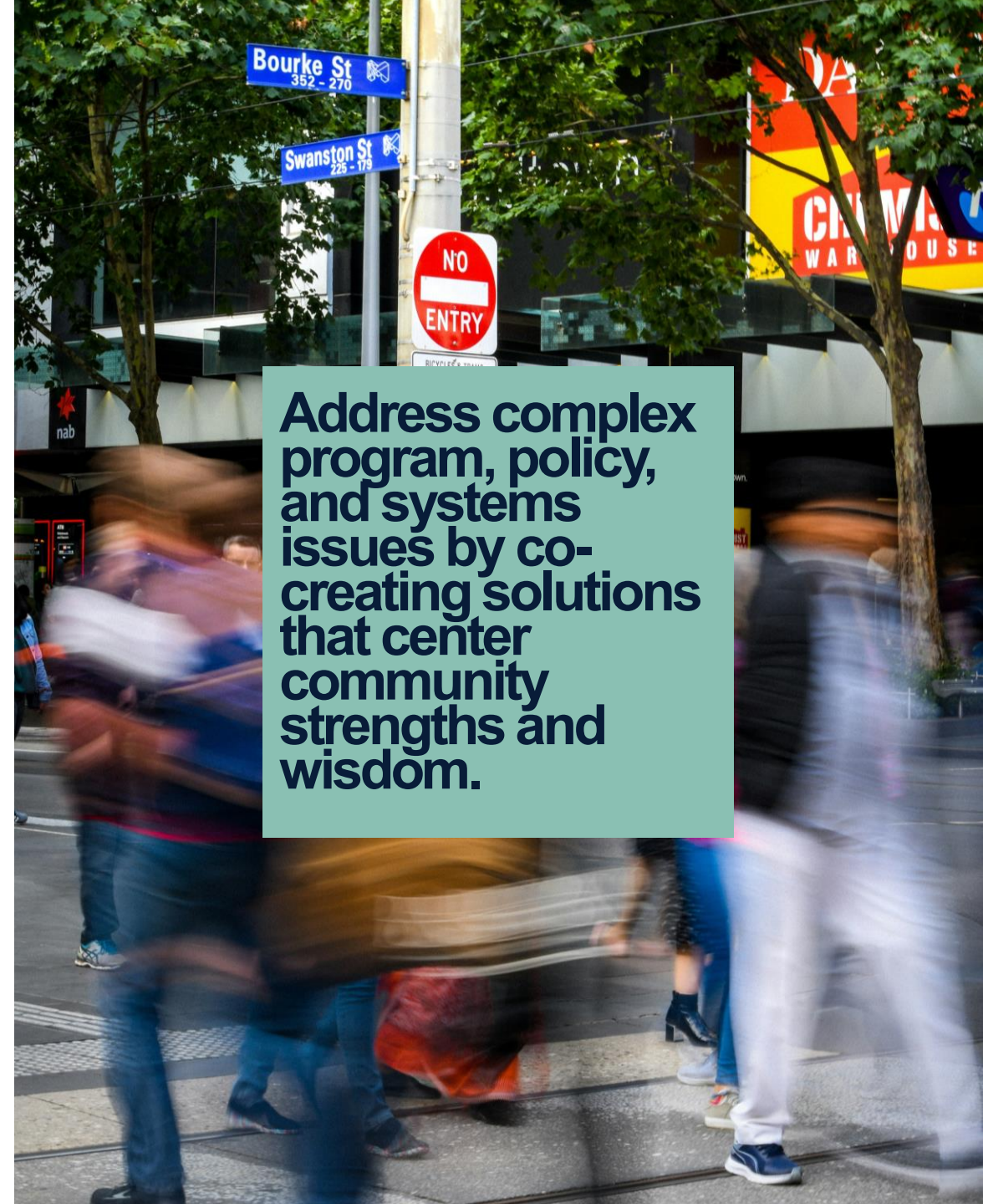
Promote the optimal well-being of individuals and communities across the Carolinas and beyond by advancing adolescent health.

About Cardea

Cardea is a national nonprofit with over 50 years of experience in evaluation, policy advancement, capacity development, and professional learning.

Cardea's Role on the Project:

- Co-leading Youth and Family Advisory Group Development
- Co-leading Structured Engagement Sessions with the Wake County Community
- Co-leading Drafting of Engagement Outcomes Summary Report
- Co-facilitating Strategic Planning Efforts



Address complex program, policy, and systems issues by co-creating solutions that center community strengths and wisdom.

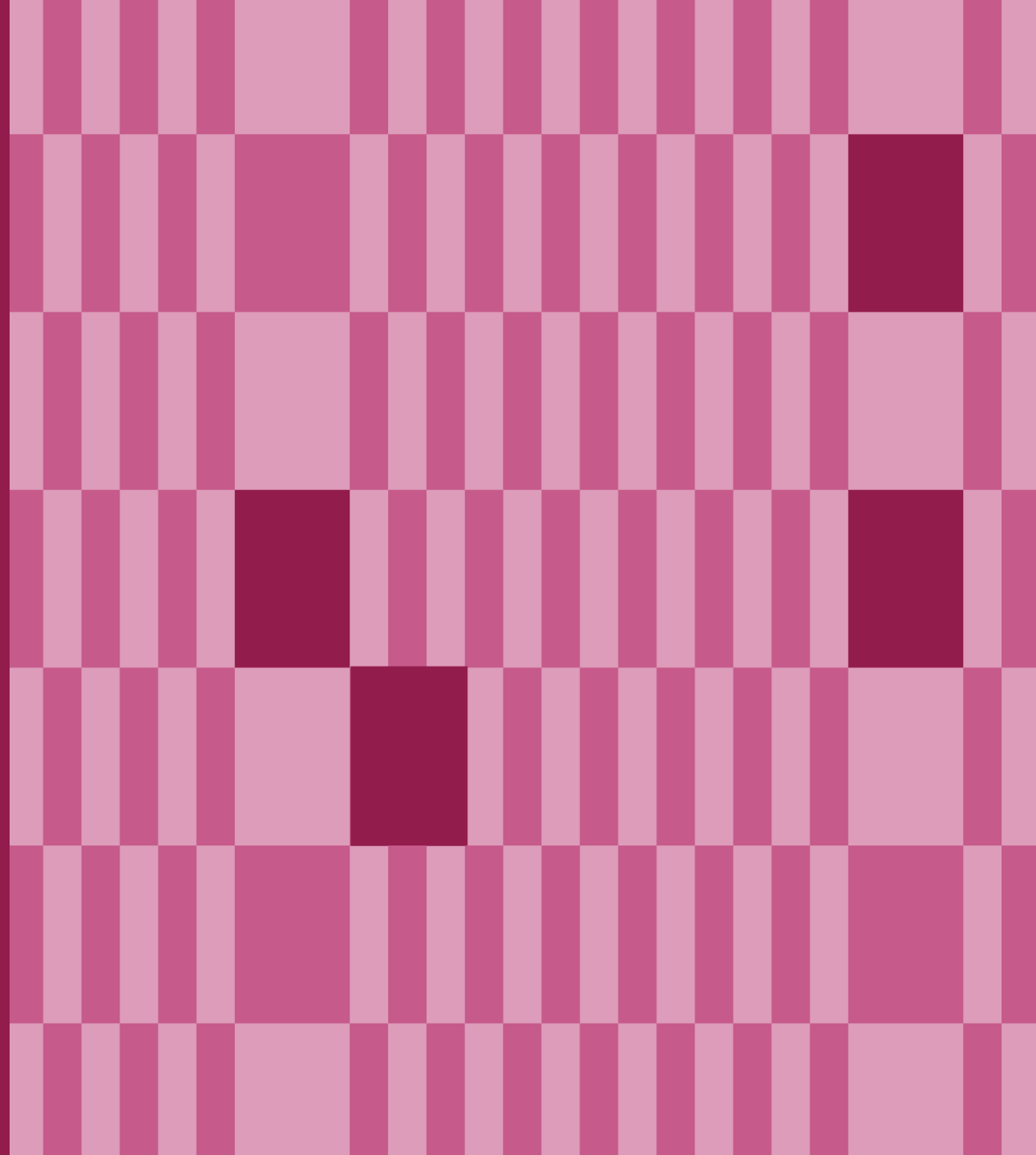
Project Timeline



Project Workplan/Timeline



Overview of the Project Phases





Phase 1: Needs Assessment

Identifying patterns and trends to support strategic planning and community engagement

Youth-Serving Agency Inventory

- Highlighting service availability across Wake County including service type, population(s) served, and geographic coverage
- Narrative discussions around gaps by service type (e.g., mental health services, extracurricular activities, family services)

Secondary Data Assessment

- Expansive assessment of patterns and trends related to youth and family behavioral health risk/protective factors, outcomes, and more
- Data will highlight disparities by demographic group and geographic areas where available
- Assessment will also highlight current data gaps to support future capacity building



Phase 1: Needs Assessment

Example Indicators May Include:

Risk and Protective Factors

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACES)
- Housing instability
- Perceived risk of substance use
- Engagement in school and extracurricular activities

Youth Substance Use

- Prevalence and frequency of substance use
- Age of initiation
- Source of substance consumed
- Polysubstance use

Youth Mental Health

- Mental health symptoms
 - Anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation
- Mental health behaviors
 - Self-harm, help-seeking

School and Community

- Chronic absenteeism
- Graduation rates
- Juvenile justice involvement
- Emergency department visits
- Rates of suicide/suicide attempts

Phase 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Goals of the Stakeholder Engagement:

1. Elicit lived experiences and system insights from youth, families, and key partners across the behavioral health continuum
2. Identify strengths, gaps, and duplications in services and supports for youth and families
3. Surface actionable opportunities for system improvement, integration, and investment
4. Ensure equitable representation and intentional inclusion of underrepresented communities and populations
5. Foster shared ownership of findings among stakeholders to inform sustainable policy and practice change





Phase 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Identifying a diverse group of stakeholders for representation in the Youth and Family Advisory Group

Youth, caregivers, and family advocates

Youth-serving community-based organizations

Pediatric and primary care providers

Wake County Public School System staff and leadership

Juvenile justice and child welfare representatives

Managed care organizations

Youth development programs

Homelessness service providers and housing partners

Faith-based and cultural organizations



Phase 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Uplifting the voices of community members

Focus Groups and Roundtables

4-6 sessions intended to gather insight from youth, caregivers, and frontline providers



Community Listening Sessions

2 public sessions co-hosted with trusted local partners to reach broader community participation



Key Informant Interviews

10-12 in-depth interviews with system leaders, including WCPSS, MCOs, health systems, and community-based organizations



Phase 3: Best Practices and Benchmarking

Systematic Review of Peer-Reviewed Literature

- Identifies evidence-based programs and practices for youth and family behavioral health, organized by developmental stage and continuum of care
- Benchmarked against national standards (e.g., SAMHSA, NIDA) to assess where Wake County's current system is strong and where gaps exist

Scan of National, State, and Regional Models of Excellence

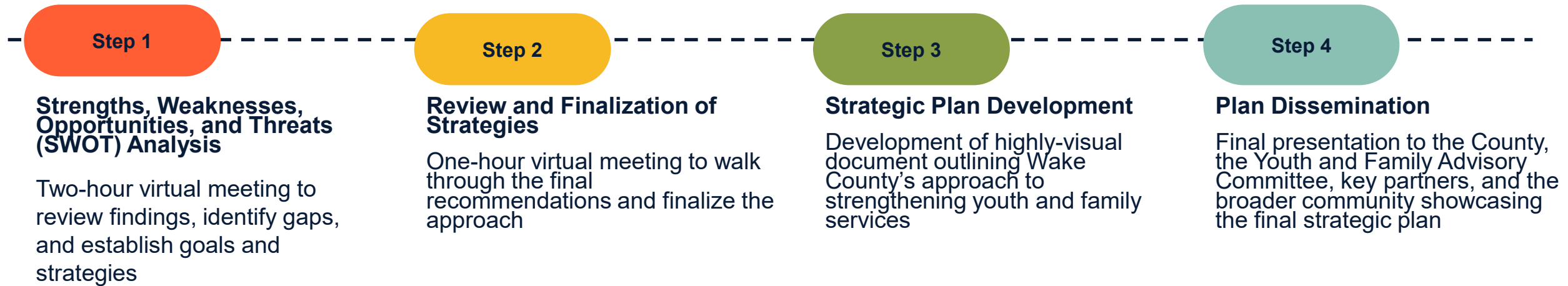
- Surfaces evidence-based models that may be a strong fit for Wake County's context and population needs
- Prioritizes culturally responsive approaches for the high-need subpopulations identified through the needs assessment and stakeholder engagement





Phase 4: Strategic Planning

Paving the way for a stronger continuum of care in Wake County





Phase 4: Strategic Plan

Features of the final strategic plan:

1. Highly-visual Executive Summary highlighting the key piece of the process, decisions, and outcomes
2. Accessible formats including ADA compliant imagery and language
3. Clear representation of Wake County's selected strategies and approach to implementation
4. Timeline for implementing the approach
5. Four strategic plan summaries tailored to diverse audiences (e.g., youth, policy makers, providers, parents/families)

Executive Summary

In response to the ongoing opioid crisis, Loudoun County Government has developed a five-year, data-driven strategic plan to effectively utilize its opioid settlement funds. Developed in partnership with Omni Institute, this plan builds upon data from a comprehensive Strengths and Needs Assessment, robust engagement with various partners in Loudoun County, best practices in opioid abatement by Johns Hopkins University and the National Association of Counties, and national benchmarking by George Mason University's Center for Social Science Research (CSSR). Using a Collective Impact Framework, the plan aligns with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's (OAA) funding guidelines and focuses on shifting Loudoun County to a sustainable, equitable, and recovery-oriented community that is prepared for current and future substance use trends and emphasizes providing support and services for all who live there.

Collective Impact Framework
A framework used to organize local governments, community-based organizations, and the public on addressing social needs.

Strategic Planning Process

To develop the strategic plan, Loudoun County Government participated in a multi-stage strategic planning process which emphasized data-driven approaches, as well as nationally recognized best practices in opioid abatement. Loudoun County Government convened an interdisciplinary group, the Opioid Advisory Workgroup, to participate in the strategic planning process and guide decision-making to select strategies intended to address the county's current and future substance use needs and services.

- National Benchmarking of Opioid Abatement Efforts** DECEMBER 2024 - MAY 2025
George Mason University's Center for Social Science Research conducted benchmarking of localities across the United States to better understand the most impactful opioid abatement efforts.
- Kickoff** JANUARY 2025
Set a foundation to ensure the work was grounded in local context, used a data-driven approach, and generated buy-in and engagement from key system partners.
- Assessment** FEBRUARY - APRIL 2025
Conducted a Strengths and Needs Assessment to gather the information necessary for a data-driven approach to strategic planning.
- Strategic Planning** APRIL - JULY 2025
Facilitated strategic planning activities with the Opioid Advisory Workgroup using a Collective Impact model to select OAA approved strategies for Loudoun County.
- Development of Plan** AUGUST - FEBRUARY 2026
Developed a strategic plan that clearly articulates selected funding priorities, rationales, activities, and goals.

Strategic Plan Through Fiscal Year 2031

Through data-driven decision-making, guided by the results of the Strengths and Needs Assessment, the CSSR's national benchmarking of best practices, and the expertise and experiences of the Opioid Advisory Group members, the Opioid Advisory Group developed an interconnected approach to substance use abatement in Loudoun County. This approach includes expanding prevention efforts in Loudoun County, enhancing access to treatment for those who live within Loudoun County, and increasing connections to care and recovery services. Each of these efforts link to [Schedule B \(Approved Uses\) of Exhibit E](#) and represent a well-rounded approach to substance use abatement, while also building a stronger, more resilient, Loudoun County that is prepared for current and future substance use trends.

The following pages provide a detailed description of the selected strategies, the evidence base supporting these strategies, and the actions intended to carry out these strategies. Following the Collective Impact Framework, successful implementation of these strategies requires a strong backbone, a role that Loudoun County Government is well-positioned to lead. Through their Opioid Response Coordinator, Loudoun County Government will oversee coordination, staffing, communications, and resource management while supporting owners of each component of the opioid abatement strategies. As this work moves forward, Loudoun County Government will engage in an implementation planning process which will clearly identify ownership, resource needs, and direct goals for each component of the strategic plan. Workgroups and implementation teams will be developed to ensure strong support for these efforts while maintaining continuous communication and shared measurement.

All included actions reflect best practices in implementation as identified by the CSSR's national benchmarking, NAC's Opioid Solutions Center, Johns Hopkins University's Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation, and evidence-based research.

Key Results of the Secondary Data

Opioid-related hospitalizations and deaths in Loudoun County have generally declined since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021). Despite this progress, overdoses still occur across nearly all ZIP codes, highlighting that the opioid issue remains widespread.

While people of all ages and backgrounds are impacted by the opioid crisis, certain populations within Loudoun County face a disproportionate impact. Young adults under the age of 39, as well as members of the American Indian or Alaska Native, Black/African American, and Hispanic/Latino communities, are especially affected. Although these populations make up a smaller percentage of the Loudoun County community, their fentanyl-related death rates are similar to or much higher than those of the white population in Loudoun County. More information on the populations presented here can be found in the Strengths and Needs Assessment.

These results indicate the need for a wide-reaching substance use abatement approach that can provide support to all who live within Loudoun County, while making sure that focused outreach connects with underserved/vulnerable populations.

Fatal Overdoses Involving Any Opioid, 2017-2024 (Loudoun County Health Department)

Year	Fatal Overdoses
2017	25
2018	22
2019	23
2020	24
2021	28
2022	21
2023	23
2024	16

The number of fatal opioid overdoses in Loudoun County has been decreasing since 2021.

Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Residents by Opioid Type, 2019-2024 (Loudoun County Health Department)

Within Loudoun County, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have the highest overdose death rate of any opioid.

Year	Any Opioids	Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids	Natural, Semi-Synthetic, and Synthetic Opioids	Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids	Prescription Pain Relievers	Heroin	Methadone
2019	6	4.8	2.2	1.9	0.7	0.2	0
2020	6	5.5	2.5	2.0	0.8	0.2	0
2021	7	6.5	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.3	0
2022	5	4.5	2.5	1.8	0.7	0.2	0
2023	5	4.5	2.5	1.8	0.7	0.2	0
2024	3.8	3.5	2.2	1.9	0.7	0.2	0

Note: After 2019, Natural and Semi-Synthetic Opioids and Prescription Pain Relievers follow the same trajectory.



Thank you!
Any questions?

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