

**Item Title:** Approve Second Supplemental to Opioid Settlement Agreement

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners approves a resolution authorizing execution of opioid settlements with Kroger and approves the Second Supplemental Agreement for Additional funds, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners is required to authorize the execution of opioid settlements and approve the Second Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds per the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement.

**Background:** Lawsuits aimed at several companies involved in manufacturing and distributing prescription opioid drugs have been settled in federal court. Under the terms of the settlement, North Carolina will receive approximately \$1.37 billion, and Wake County will receive over \$65 million over 18 years to address the opioid epidemic. Wake County agreed to be part of the settlement in November 2021 and agreed to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement that establishes the terms for oversight and use of settlement funds in North Carolina. An additional settlement has been reached with Kroger, which will result in approximately \$2 million for Wake County. To opt into the settlement with Kroger, local governments must take action by August 12, 2024.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 3: By 2029, 5% more residents asked will indicate low barriers to healthcare and behavioral health services, such as access to providers, insurance coverage, affordability and appointment wait times

**Fiscal Impact:** No additional appropriations are requested at this time.

**Additional Information:**

The overdose crisis is one of the worst public health emergencies our country has faced in decades. In 2022, over 107,000 people died of a drug overdose in the United States, including 219 individuals in Wake County. Opioids were involved in over three quarters of those deaths. Counties are on the front lines of this crisis, providing public health services that make it possible to survive and recover from a substance use disorder.

North Carolina is part of a historic agreement that will bring \$1.37 billion to the state that will provide much needed relief to communities impacted by opioids. These funds will be used to support early intervention, overdose prevention, treatment, recovery support, and

other life-saving programs and services. In November 2021, Wake County agreed to participate in the national settlement and will receive approximately \$65.3 million over the next 18 years. These funds may only be used to address the opioid epidemic. On April 15, 2024, the Wake Board of Commissioners approved the FY2025 spending plan.

Additional settlements are being reached with the companies involved in manufacturing and distributing opioids, most recently Kroger. The funds to be received by Wake County through the Kroger Settlement are projected to be \$1,914,231.13.

The Board's action will approve a resolution to authorize execution of opioid settlements and approve the second supplemental agreement for additional funds, which will allow Wake County to receive the funds from the Kroger Settlement.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution to Authorize Execution of Opioid Settlements and Approve the Second Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds
2. NC Projections for the Kroger Settlement