

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

2026 Lincoln County High Impact Opioid Abatement Strategies

RFA 1: Opioid Settlement

Date of Issue: 01/05/2026

Bidders' Conference Webinar date:	January 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM
Webinar link:	Webinar link (Teams)
Questions due date:	January 27, 2026 by 5:00 PM
Application due date:	February 20, 2026 by 5:00 PM

Applicants are eligible to request funding for the designated grant period (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027). It is important to note that continued financial support beyond this timeframe is not guaranteed, and applicants must apply again for future funding. All awards are subject to the availability of current opioid settlement funds.

READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY: It shall be the applicant's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and any addenda thereto, and comply with all requirements specified herein. Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFA and any addenda issued hereto.

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFA to:

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SECTION 1: BACKGROUND & STRATEGY INFORMATION

1.1. Background and Purpose

In 2017, Governor Roy Cooper launched the North Carolina (NC) Opioid Action Plan, which was updated as the NC Opioid Action Plan 2.0 in June 2019. The NC Opioid Action Plan advances various strategies for overdose prevention and response, including prevention, connections to care, and harm reduction. In May 2021, the plan was updated again to become NC's [Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan 3.0 \(OSUAP\)](#). The latest update included a broader focus on polysubstance use as well as centering on equity and lived experiences.

In July 2021, NC Attorney General Josh Stein announced a historic national settlement agreement with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids. These agreements will bring much-needed resources to communities impacted by the opioid overdose epidemic. The allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("[NC MOA](#)") and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation ("SAAF").

The NC MOA directs how opioid settlement funds are distributed and used in our state. To maximize funds flowing to NC communities, the MOA allocates 15 percent of settlement funds to the State and sends the remaining 85 percent to NC's 100 counties and 17 municipalities.

The estimated overdose death rate in Lincoln County was 34.4 out of 100,000 residents in 2024, representing (projected) 34 people who died of an overdose.¹ For every death, there are more non-fatal overdoses. While we cannot capture all opioid overdoses, emergency department visits for overdoses are one way to measure the number of overdoses occurring. The estimated overdose emergency department visit rate in Lincoln County is 103.3 per 100,000 residents in 2025, representing (projected) 101 emergency department visits for an overdose.²

The purpose of this RFA is to fund eligible organizations to implement evidence-based, high-impact strategies to address the opioid overdose epidemic in Lincoln County, North Carolina. In addition, this RFA builds capacity and local infrastructure to respond to the overdose crisis in Lincoln County, North Carolina. The goals of the RFA are to:

1. Enhance community efforts to develop and/or expand evidence-based programs and resources to address opioid use disorder.
2. Build capacity and infrastructure to measure the impact of programs and prevent fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Lincoln County.
3. Reduce overdose deaths and emergency department visits in Lincoln County.
4. Strengthen community partnerships to improve access to care related to opioid use disorder.

As a result of the opioid settlements, Lincoln County government is set to receive \$11,190,800 in installments over an 18-year period. Before spending settlement funds, every local county or municipality must first select which opioid mitigation strategies they would like to fund. Under [Option A](#)

¹ <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioid-and-substance-use-action-plan-data-dashboard>

² Ibid.

of the MOA, a local government may fund one or more strategies from a shorter list of high-impact strategies to address the epidemic. The Option A strategies relevant to this RFA are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Collaborative strategic planning | 5. Syringe service programs |
| 2. Employment-related services | 6. Criminal justice diversion programs |
| 3. Early intervention | 7. Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons |
| 4. Naloxone distribution | 8. Reentry programs |

1.2. Strategy Information

In 2025, the Lincoln County Opioid Settlement Committee approved the utilization of Opioid Settlement Funds for a one-year grant period to fund projects that align with the Option A Strategies listed below. Applicants must select from this list of strategies for their proposed project.

1. **Collaborative Strategic Planning** – Support collaborative strategic planning to address opioid misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues, including staff support, facilitation services, or any activity or combination of activities listed in Exhibit C to the MOA (collaborative strategic planning).

The following list of examples represents some of the eligible activities under the collaborative strategic planning strategy. Other related activities consistent with the NC MOA [Exhibit C](#) may also be proposed in your application.

- a. Agree on a shared vision for positive community change, considering how strategic investments of Opioid Settlement Funds have the potential to improve community health and well-being and address root causes of addiction, drug misuse, overdose, and related issues.
- b. Identify potential strategies to address root causes or other aspects of the opioid epidemic and consider the effectiveness of each strategy based on available evidence.
- c. For each potential strategy identified (or for favored strategies), survey existing programs, services, or supports that address the same or similar issues; and identify gaps or shortcomings.
- d. Prioritize strategies, taking into account your shared vision, analysis of root causes, evaluation of each strategy, and analysis of gaps in existing efforts.
- e. For each strategy (or favored strategy), develop goals and an evaluation plan that includes at least one process measure (How much did you do?), at least one quality measure (How well did you do it?), and at least one outcome measure (Is anyone better off?)
- f. For each potential strategy identified (or for favored strategies), consider opportunities to braid Opioid Settlement Funds with other funding streams; develop regional solutions; form strategic partnerships; or to pursue other creative solutions.

- 2. Employment-Related Services** - Fund programs offering employment support services to people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, such as job training, job skills, job placement, interview coaching, resume review, professional attire, relevant courses at community colleges or vocational schools, transportation services or transportation vouchers to facilitate any of these activities, or similar services or supports.

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Provide training and skills-building opportunities for people with opioid use disorder, focusing on topics such as resume writing or practicing interview skills.
- b. Support people with opioid use disorder to pursue education and job opportunities. Some examples of this include providing case management support, helping place job seekers with apprenticeship and internship opportunities, and hosting education and employment fairs. Consider opportunities for peer-based mentoring and case management.
- c. Fund programs offering transportation services or transportation vouchers to facilitate employment-related services/activities or similar services or supports.
- d. Communicate with, provide outreach to, and educate policy makers, county government officials, and employers on Fair Chance Hiring policies and practices.
- e. Promote and support implementation of Fair Chance Hiring policies and practices.
- f. Implement recovery-friendly workplace initiatives and programs to foster supportive workspaces for people in recovery or who use drugs.

- 3. Early Intervention** – Fund programs, services, or training to encourage early identification and intervention for children or adolescents who may be struggling with problematic use of drugs or mental health conditions, including Youth Mental Health First Aid, peer-based programs, or similar approaches. Training programs may target parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health or human services professionals, or others in contact with children or adolescents.

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Implement use of evidence-based screening tools for youth to identify risk of developing opioid use disorder and link those youth at risk to appropriate services (e.g., Screening to Brief Intervention; Brief Screener for Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs; Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth).
 - i. Develop protocol for linking youth to appropriate MH/OD services as needed
 - ii. Connect youth to peer support groups that strengthen recovery
 - iii. Connect families to support groups to enable strong support of their children who may be struggling

- b. Provide training for parents, caregivers, school staff, peers, human service professionals, etc., in early identification of opioid use disorder and mental health disorders (e.g., Youth Mental Health First Aid).
- c. Provide evidence-based programs that strengthen families and communities to enhance support of youth (e.g., Strengthening Families).
- d. Engage in trauma-informed trainings and improve programs focused on youth and adolescents to be more trauma-informed

4. Naloxone Distribution – Programs or organizations that distribute naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or their social networks.

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Support programs such as Syringe Service Programs, post-overdose response teams, programs that provide naloxone to persons upon release from jail or prison, emergency medical service providers or hospital emergency departments that provide naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or others in a position to assist in case of an overdose, or community-based organizations that provide services to people who use drugs. Programs or organizations involved in community distribution of naloxone may, in addition, provide naloxone to first responders.
- b. Secure a distribution standing order from a medical provider to allow the organization to distribute naloxone in the community.
- c. Purchase supplies to assemble naloxone rescue kits (e.g., naloxone, syringes, packaging, instructions).
- d. Train staff and volunteers to train lay persons in identifying signs and symptoms of overdose, naloxone administration, and follow-up care.
- e. Develop procedures to document naloxone units distributed and community reversals.

5. Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) – Support Syringe Service Programs operated by any governmental or nongovernmental organization authorized by section 90-113.27 of the North Carolina General Statutes that provide syringes, naloxone, or other harm reduction supplies; that dispose of used syringes; that connect clients to prevention, treatment, recovery support, behavioral healthcare, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need; or that provide any of these services or supports.

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Develop internal capacity to deliver SSP services:
 - i. Hire SSP staff, peers/outreach workers, administrative personnel, case managers, and other roles to support program services and operations.

- ii. Train SSP staff and participants in first aid, CPR, wound care, safer use practices, naloxone administration, testing for communicable/blood-borne diseases, and related harm reduction and disease prevention practices.
 - iii. Purchase SSP and wound care supplies, such as biohazard disposal containers, safer use supplies, alcohol swabs, gauze, bandages, hygiene products, barrier methods for sexual health, bags, and food. Drug testing strips or other forms of drug checking supplies or tools for the purpose of harm reduction and overdose prevention, such as mass spectrometers, are also allowed.
 - iv. Develop comprehensive support programs within the SSP, such as harm reduction-based support groups, peer navigation to identify participant needs and enroll in local services accordingly, and other methods to ensure connection to appropriate care services.
 - b. Provide additional support or linkages to care for program participants and other people who use drugs:
 - i. Develop processes and infrastructure to provide all required and recommended SSP services under North Carolina law ([G.S. 90-113.27](#)), including naloxone access and hepatitis/HIV testing services.
 - ii. Develop processes and infrastructure to provide additional referral services, such as connections to communicable disease treatment providers, MAT providers, housing, transportation, employment, wound care, food, legal services, recovery, and related care services.
 - iii. Build linkage to care or care management systems to include assistance with scheduling appointments or transportation to and from appointments.
 - iv. Provide comprehensive whole-person support, including support or advocacy groups.
6. **Criminal Justice Diversion Programs** – Support pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion programs, or pre-trial service programs, that connect individuals involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, prevention, or other services or supports they need, or that provide any of these services or supports. **A letter of commitment from the partnering Sheriff's Office and court system is required for this strategy.**

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Secure agreements with local district attorney and law enforcement agencies to support pre-arrest diversion program.
- b. Develop eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures to divert individuals from the justice system to needed support services.
- c. Hire clinical social workers, forensic peer support specialists, and/or peer support specialists to facilitate the referral and screening processes and provide the necessary supports to enrolled individuals.

- d. Provide training to law enforcement to support individuals that may need services (e.g., crisis intervention team, recovery language, trauma-informed responses).

7. Addiction Treatment for Incarcerated Persons - Support evidence-based addiction treatment, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) with at least one FDA-approved opioid agonist for persons who are incarcerated in jail or prison.

Applicants are recommended to demonstrate prior experience working with the justice-involved population or partner with an organization with experience working with justice-involved people. **A letter of commitment from the partnering jail/detention center or Sheriff's Office is required for this strategy.**

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Educate incarcerated people and their loved ones on harm reduction strategies before release, including but not limited to training on overdose prevention planning and on overdose recognition and response with naloxone.
- b. Develop and implement a program for take-home naloxone distribution for people upon release.
- c. Develop and implement a comprehensive medication-assisted treatment (MAT) or medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) program in the jail/detention center setting.

8. Reentry Programs – Support programs that connect incarcerated persons to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need upon release from jail or prison, or that provide any of these services or supports.

The following list represents the type of eligible activities that could be included in your application; related activities consistent with the NC MOA may also be proposed in your application:

- a. Provide culturally competent, person-centered services capable of addressing the complex needs of people returning to their communities after incarceration in institutional prisons or detention centers.
- b. Develop a relationship with the Department of Public Safety and local detention center to coordinate warm handoffs of care from incarceration to services in the community.
- c. Hire a community health worker, linkage-to-care navigator, clinical social worker, and/or forensic peer support specialist to assist legal system-involved individuals to create comprehensive reentry plans and provide ongoing support.
 - i. Assist individuals with securing identification, connecting to social and health services (housing, transportation, employment), navigating the court system, and related supports that reduce the likelihood of a drug overdose.

- d. Provide training and skills that build opportunities for people who were recently incarcerated, focusing on topics such as resume writing, practicing interview skills, or how to address incarceration during the interview process.
- e. Support people who were recently incarcerated to pursue education and job opportunities. Some examples of this include providing case management support, helping place job seekers with apprenticeship and internship opportunities, and hosting education and employment fairs for people with a history of incarceration. Consider opportunities for peer-based mentoring and case management.
- f. Establish reentry programs to link or refer people to care services once released from incarceration and provide care service referrals, focusing on individuals with opioid use disorder.
- g. Educate incarcerated people and their loved ones on harm reduction strategies before release, including but not limited to training on overdose prevention planning and on overdose recognition and response with naloxone.
- h. Develop a program for take-home naloxone distribution for people upon release.

1.3. Additional Resources

The following resources may also be helpful as you plan your project and develop your application:

- **CORE-NC: Community Opioid Resources Engine for North Carolina:** <https://ncopioidsettlement.org>
- **About the Opioid Settlements:** <https://ncopioidsettlement.org/about/#quicklinks> (please take a close look at the 'Full Text of the NC MOA', 'FAQ about the NC MOA', and 'FAQ about Option A Strategies in the MOA')
- **North Carolina Overdose Epidemic Data:**
<https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data>

SECTION 2: RFA & PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, hospital systems, and private behavioral health and mental health providers (including providers of Office-Based Opioid Treatment and Opioid Treatment Providers), Federal Qualified Health Centers, colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and other community-based organizations that are licensed to conduct business in North Carolina. Proof of nonprofit status is required for entities applying as a non-profit. Applicants must clearly demonstrate experience working with individuals with opioid use disorder and a commitment to evidence-based strategies addressing opioid use disorder.

Applicants may be individual organizations or a partnership/collaboration of multiple organizations, one of which must serve as the fiscal agent or the organization that will take total responsibility for the fiscal and grant-related requirements.

2.2. RFA Terms and Conditions

1. RFA Review and Compliance

It shall be the applicant's responsibility to read the instructions, Lincoln County's terms and conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFA, and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Applicants are also responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this RFA.

Awarded organizations must comply with all provisions of the funding [North Carolina MOA](#), including financial and impact reporting, and expenditure tracking and monitoring, including costs incurred no earlier than the beginning of the contract period.

2. Award or Rejection

All qualified applications will be evaluated and awards made to the agency/s (s) or organization(s) whose combination of budget and service capabilities is deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency. The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners reserves the unqualified right to reject any or all offers if determined to be in the local government's best interest. Successful applicants will be notified by 04/30/2025.

3. Cost of Application Preparation

Any costs incurred by an organization in preparing or submitting an application are the agency's or organization's sole responsibility. Lincoln County will not reimburse any agency or organization for any pre-award costs incurred.

4. Elaborate Applications

Applicants are encouraged to provide sufficient documentation to support their proposal. However, elaborate applications in the form of brochures or other presentations beyond that necessary to present a complete and effective application are not desired. No materials other

than those described in Section 3: Application and Selection Processes of this RFA will be reviewed.

5. Non-Collusion

By executing and submitting their proposal, the Applicant certifies that this application is made without reference to any other application and without any agreement, understanding, collusion or combination with any other person in reference to such proposal.

6. Oral Explanations

Lincoln County will not be bound by oral explanations or instructions given at any time during the competitive process or after awarding the grant.

7. Reference to Other Data

Only information that is received in response to this RFA will be evaluated; information previously submitted will not be reviewed.

8. Questions

Questions or issues regarding any term, condition, or other component within this RFA must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in Section 3: Application and Selection Processes of this RFA. Vendor's proposal shall constitute a firm offer.

9. Exceptions

If a vendor desires modification of the terms and conditions of this solicitation, it is urged and cautioned to inquire during the question period, in accordance with the instructions in this RFA, about whether specific language proposed as a modification is acceptable to or will be considered by the County. It is the County's sole discretion to accept or reject requested modifications and/or exceptions as an Addendum to this RFA package.

All applications are subject to the terms and conditions of this RFA, including all Addenda. All submitted applications will be controlled by such terms and conditions. The attachment of other terms and conditions by any agency or organization may be grounds for rejection of that agency or organization's application. Funded agencies and organizations will specifically agree to the conditions set forth in the Performance Agreement (contract).

10. Right to Submitted Material

All responses, inquiries, or correspondence relating to or in reference to the RFA, and all other reports, charts, displays, schedules, exhibits, and other documentation submitted by the agency or organization will become the property of the funding agency when received.

11. Competitive Offer

Pursuant to the provision of [G.S. 143-54](#), and under penalty of perjury, the signer of any application submitted in response to this RFA thereby certifies that this application has not been arrived at collusively or otherwise in violation of either Federal or North Carolina antitrust laws.

12. Subcontracting

Agencies and organizations may propose to subcontract portions of work provided that their applications clearly indicate the scope of the work to be subcontracted and to whom. All information required about the prime subrecipient is also required for each proposed secondary subcontractor. Agencies and organizations shall also ensure that subcontractors are not on the state's [Suspension of Funding List](#).

13. Proprietary Information

Trade secrets or similar proprietary data which the agency or organization does not wish disclosed to other than personnel involved in the evaluation will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by NCAC TO1: 05B.1501 and G.S. 132-1.3 if identified as follows: Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL." Any section of the application that is to remain confidential shall also be so marked in boldface on the title page of that section. An applicant may not mark the entire application as "CONFIDENTIAL."

14. Minority Participation

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-48, 143-128.4, and Executive Order #13, Lincoln County invites and encourages participation in this Request for Applications by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises, and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. Additional information may be found at <http://www.doa.nc.gov/hub>.

15. Registration with the Secretary of State

Private non-profit applicants must be registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State to do business in North Carolina or be willing to complete the registration process in conjunction with the execution of the contract documents. (Refer to: https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/business_registration)

16. Contract

The County will issue a contract to the successful recipient(s) of the Opioid Settlement funding for specific services to be provided. Expenditures cannot begin until the County's receipt of a completely signed contract.

17. Assurances

The contract may include assurances that the successful applicant would be required to execute before receiving a contract, as well as when signing the contract.

18. Additional Legal Provisions

Additional legal provisions are listed in Section 4.1. Additional Legal Provisions. These provisions all apply to this RFA.

2.3. Scope of Services

2.3.1. Eligible Option A Strategies

In alignment with guidelines set by the NC MOA, Lincoln County will consider funding qualified organizations to implement the following Option A strategies:

1. Collaborative strategic planning
2. Employment-related services
3. Early intervention
4. Naloxone distribution
5. Syringe service programs
6. Criminal justice diversion programs
7. Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons
8. Reentry programs

Descriptions and non-exhaustive examples of allowable activities for each strategy option are detailed in Section 1.2: Strategy Information.

Applicants may apply to support more than one evidence-based strategy. A separate proposal application is required for each Option A strategy. Each application will have the same page limits and submission instructions as detailed in Section 3: Application & Selection Processes. Multiple proposal applications from a single applicant do not have to be connected to the same project or strategy. Each application will be reviewed independently.

Applicants may propose one or a combination of eligible activities or programs within a single strategy. Selecting more than one activity does not increase the likelihood that the application will score higher than those who select only one. **Proposals should be focused, realistic, well-planned, detailed, and include planning for sustainability beyond the project period.**

2.3.2. Programmatic Requirements

Funded projects must:

1. Meet a public purpose and fall within County authority to fund per NC General Statutes, to be affirmed and reviewed by the Lincoln County legal department prior to execution of a contract or funding agreement;
2. Identify and directly address a need related to reducing opioid overdoses and related deaths through treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and other life-saving programs;
3. Directly address health inequities, social drivers/determinants of health, and support equitable outcomes for the most impacted populations:
 - a. **“Health inequities** are systematic differences in the health status of different population groups. These inequities have significant social and economic costs both to individuals and societies.”³
 - b. **Social drivers/determinants of health** are “the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning,

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/health-inequities-and-their-causes>

and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.” Example domains include economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environments, and social and community contexts.⁴

4. Clearly describe specific plans to incorporate equity throughout the program, such as defining a role and a fair compensation strategy for people with lived experience for each selected strategy.
5. Provide a plan to incorporate feedback from program participants to inform program delivery of the selected activity;
6. Utilize evidence-based practices;
7. Have at least one year of experience and demonstrated success in providing the type of proposed services;
8. Make the best use of Lincoln County resources;
9. Serve the residents of Lincoln County;
10. Proposals must be one-year projects;
11. A representative of funded agencies must attend quarterly meetings of the Lincoln County Opioid Settlement Committee and
12. Participate in all coordinated meetings with other funded agencies.

2.4. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

2.4.1. Audit Requirements

Funds received through the National Opioid Settlements are not considered to be either federal or state financial assistance. However, as noted in the NC MOA, these funds are subject to G.S. Chapter 159, Article 3, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA), and are subject to the audit requirements found in G.S. 159-34. Expenditures incurred are also subject to State Single Audit requirements. Per the MOA, for expenditures for which no compliance audit is required under the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984, a compliance audit shall be required under a compliance supplement approved by the coordination group.

Please be advised that successful applicants may be required to have an audit per G.S. 143C-6-22 and G.S. 143C-6-23 as applicable to the agency’s status. It is the responsibility of each applicant agency to determine and comply with all audit requirements.

G.S. 143C-6-23 requires every nongovernmental entity that receives State or Federal passthrough grant funds directly from a state agency to file annual reports on how those grant funds were used. There are 3 reporting levels, which are determined by the total direct grant receipts from all State agencies in the entity’s fiscal year:

Level 1: Less than \$25,000

Level 2: At least \$25,000 but less than \$500,000

Level 3: \$500,000 or more

Level 3 grantees are required to submit a "Yellow Book" Audit done by a CPA. Only Level 3 grantees may include audit expenses in the program budget. Audit expenses should be prorated based on the ratio of the opioid abatement grant to the total revenues received by the entity.

⁴ <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

All grantees must maintain, for at least five years, records of opioid abatement fund expenditures and documents underlying those expenditures, so that it can be verified that funds are being or have been utilized consistently.

2.4.2. Performance Reporting

Lincoln County is responsible to the State of North Carolina for reporting and audit requirements for all use of Opioid Settlement grant funds, which it has received. To ensure that the County has all supporting documentation for eligible disbursements, supporting documentation must be submitted with any request to the County for Opioid Settlement grant funds. Subrecipients must submit actual invoices to the County to receive reimbursement. For salary reimbursement, payroll records must be provided in support of the time charged to the proposed program.

For each period that the program is funded, required quarterly performance status reports will be due by the 30th day following the end of a calendar quarter. Reports must contain information to describe progress, update program objectives on intended and actual impacts, and provide other performance data. For example, deadlines for subcontracts in 2026-2027 may be:

Reporting Period	Report Due Date
July 1, 2026- September 30, 2026	September 30, 2026
October 1, 2026- December 31, 2026	December 30, 2026
January 1, 2027- March 31, 2027	March 30, 2027
April 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027	June 30, 2027

Reporting forms will be provided to successful applicants. Suggested measures can be found [here](#) in the NC Opioid Settlement Measures Models document. These measures models were designed to help local governments and their subrecipients report on process, quality, and outcome measures associated with the planning and implementation of opioid abatement strategies. They served as the foundation for developing the Impact Report Measures Workbook, which local governments use to capture strategy-specific data for the Annual Impact Report. Each measures model reflects the underlying logic of one of the 12 high-impact opioid abatement strategies listed in Exhibit A of the NC MOA. Each model lists the strategy name and has columns for activities, process measures, quality measures, outcome measures, indicators, and a results statement. Each model also contains a list of assumptions related to the various components of the model.

2.5. Budget Requirements

Applicants must submit a budget with a line-item projection for the full year of funding and a narrative justification. The budget and narrative must adhere to the following terms.

2.5.1. Reimbursement Basis

Funds will be distributed to contracted agencies on the basis of quarterly reimbursement of actual expenses. Forms will be provided to successful applicants detailing reimbursement processes.

2.5.2. Allowable Costs

1. Salaries, stipends, and other wages for program staff and other supporting positions, such as peers, outreach workers, linkage-to-care navigators, case managers, administrators, contractors, and volunteers.
2. Costs associated with program implementation, linkage to care, participant engagement, cell phones, application fees, and related expenses.
3. Mileage reimbursement.
4. Syringe services program care supplies, such as alcohol swabs, gauze, band aids, hygiene products, bags, and food. Other forms of drug checking, supplies, or tools for harm reduction and overdose prevention are allowed.
5. Essential trainings and conferences related to implementing your program, including necessary travel reimbursement (e.g., mileage, lodging, and meals). Copies of training and conference agendas should be attached to invoices/receipts. Actual documented costs will be reported for reimbursement. Agencies are advised to visit the IRS website to confirm the annual mileage reimbursement rates:
<https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>.

2.5.3. Funding Restrictions

1. Indirect costs or “overhead” are NOT allowed under the NC MOA. The MOA provides that all opioid settlement funds received by local governments must be spent on opioid remediation strategies listed in Exhibit A – or on reasonable audit costs incurred by local governments in connection with opioid settlement funds. [MOA §§ B.5, E.1, E.5, F.3 and Exhibit E]
2. Only U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medications may be purchased with settlement funds.
3. Funds may not be expended through the grant or a subaward by any agency that would deny any eligible client, patient, or individual access to their program because of their use of FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine products).

2.5.4. Unallowable Costs

1. Purchasing vehicles or paying down existing mortgages and/or other loans.
2. Capital expenses, such as vehicles, new construction, or renovation of facilities.
3. Any type of research.
4. Lobbying activities (i.e., publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body).
5. Reimbursement of any pre-award costs.

SECTION 3: APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESSES

3.1. Application Process & Submission Instructions

3.1.1. Timeline

01/05/2026	Request for Applications released to eligible applicants, Q&A period begins
01/20/2026 10:00 AM	Bidder's Conference Webinar
01/21/2026	Bidder's Conference Webinar recording will be posted at Opioid Settlement County of Lincoln, NC - Official Website
01/27/2026 5:00 PM	End of Q&A period. All questions due in writing via email to Rachel.Franklin@lincolncountync.gov by 05:00 PM.
01/30/2026	Answers to Questions released as an addendum to the RFA at Opioid Settlement County of Lincoln, NC - Official Website
02/20/2026 5:00 PM	Application package due via email to Rachel.Franklin@lincolncountync.gov by 5:00 PM
04/2026	Recommendations presented to the Board of County Commissioners
1-2 business days after the Commissioners Meeting	Successful applicants will be notified
05/01/2026	Deadline for completing the performance contract
07/01/2026	Proposed Contract begins

3.1.2. Bidders' Conference Webinar

All prospective applicants are **strongly encouraged** to attend an informational Bidder's Conference Webinar on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. Please attend via [RFA 1: Bidders Conference Webinar](#). The Bidders' Conference will provide applicants an opportunity to learn more about the purpose, goals, and processes of the RFA, as well as an opportunity to ask Lincoln County questions about the RFA and the program.

The Bidders' Conference will be recorded and published online on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**, at [Opioid Settlement | County of Lincoln, NC - Official Website](#)

3.1.3. Q&A Period

Written questions concerning the specifications in this RFA will be received until **05:00 PM** on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**, by Rachel Franklin at Rachel.Franklin@lincolncountync.gov. As an Addendum to this RFA, a summary of all questions and answers from the Q&A Period and the Bidders' Conference will be posted online at [Opioid Settlement | County of Lincoln, NC - Official Website](#) by **Friday, January 30, 2026**.

3.1.4. Submission instructions

1. Application Deadline

Applicants shall submit their application to Rachel.Franklin@lincolncountync.gov by **February 20, 2026** at **5:00 PM**.

3.2. Application Instructions

3.2.1. Format

1. Form of Application

Each proposal **must** be submitted on the application form provided by Lincoln County, which will be incorporated into a successful agency's Performance Agreement (contract). Additional pages can be inserted if necessary for the narrative sections. Use appropriate headings for each section.

2. Space Allowance

Page limit of the Project Narrative section is 10 pages. Responses should be single-spaced, Calibri size 11 font. This limit does not include the Proposal Summary, the budget with narrative, letters of commitment, or signed certifications. Page limit suggestions for each sub-section of the Project Narrative are provided in the application worksheet for each section of the application.

3.2.2. Application Content

The following sections should be submitted as **one PDF file**. The **Proposal Summary, Project Narrative, and Certifications** should be completed in the application form provided by Lincoln County. Additional required documentation should be incorporated at the end of the same PDF.

1. Proposal Summary (0 points) – Required, not scored, maximum 250 words

Provide a brief (no more than 250 words) overview of the planned project. Summary must include a purpose statement describing how your application will address the needs of people who use drugs in the community, with particular considerations for historically marginalized populations. **Applications without a proposal summary will be deducted 2 points.** The Proposal Summary does **not** count toward the page limit for the Project Narrative.

2. Project Narrative – Required, scored out of 100 points total

Page limit of the project narrative section is 10 pages total. Suggested page limits are listed beside each section of the Project Narrative below and in the accompanying application. This limit applies **only** to the Project Narrative section. Be as **specific as possible** in the project narrative section. This will be the basis for evaluating applications and monitoring the selected organization's performance.

A. Assessment of Community Need (16 total points) – Suggested page limit: 1 ½ pages

- ☐ List the geographic area to be served by the proposed project and the overdose burden in that area according to DHHS poisoning data (<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/Poisoning.htm>).
- ☐ Provide any pertinent and/or necessary information as it relates to the need for this work in your community. Identify any gaps in services you intend to address by identifying and/or defining current programs/providers.
- ☐ Describe the needs of the priority population that this proposal will serve and how those needs were determined (e.g., focus groups, survey, patient engagement).

NOTE: Provide citations/reference sources for any included community demographic or health status data. Current and relevant data is available at:

- <https://ncopioidsettlement.org/data-dashboards>
- <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data>
<https://injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/Poisoning.htm>
- <https://nc211.org/data/>
- <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/reports/dashboards#annual>
- www.lincolncountync.gov

B. Project Description and Program Sustainability (28 points) – Suggested page limit: 2 ½ pages

- ☐ Identify which implementation strategy from the NC MOA's Option A list of eligible strategies is included in the proposal, including the number (e.g., "Strategy 2: Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment"). **Only one eligible strategy may be selected for each proposal.**
- ☐ Describe the proposed project in detail, including:
 - Project activities and the evidence base about their effectiveness for the priority population;
 - Plans to incorporate feedback from program participants to inform delivery of the selected activity or activities;
 - How the project will address identified community needs and/or service gaps;
 - The project's expected impact on preventing opioid overdose, increasing access and linkages to care for the most marginalized and underserved populations, and,
 - How the project will build local infrastructure to respond to the opioid overdose crisis.
- ☐ Explain how you will engage or have already engaged the priority population in developing this proposed project.
- ☐ Detail how this project will advance your organization's goals.
- ☐ Include timelines for project implementation with specific program objectives as they relate to performance measures and budget (e.g., hiring staff or subcontractors, purchasing supplies, establishing policies and protocols, enrolling participants, etc.), including who is responsible for associated activities.
- ☐ Explain how the project will increase the capacity of your organization or your community over time to address opioid use disorder. **Note that applications must describe how they will plan for enhancements, improvements, or increases achieved during the project year to be sustained past the funding secured during the project period.**
- ☐ Describe obstacles that may affect your organization's ability to sustain this program after the project cycle and potential solutions to identified challenges.
- ☐ Detail any other funding sources that will be used towards this project.

C. Equity Impact (8 points) – Suggested page limit: ¾ page

- Describe how the proposed project addresses health inequities and/or social determinants of health (transportation, housing, employment, etc.) directly or through collaboration with other agencies.
- Describe how the proposed project reaches, benefits, and equitably engages historically marginalized populations and addresses the needs of the uninsured and underinsured.

D. Organizational Readiness (20 total points) – Suggested page limit: 2 pages

- Describe the capacity of the fiscal agent/organization that will take total responsibility for the fiscal, reporting, and grant-related compliance requirements to manage grants and comply with financial and monitoring requirements.
- If applicable, identify any proposed subcontractors and their role on the proposed project. If the specific subcontractor is not yet identified, describe how the subcontractor will be selected.
- Provide specific examples of the organizations or partnerships/collaborations of multiple organizations' capacity to deliver information in a culturally humble, sensitive, and appropriate manner. The applicant must demonstrate an understanding of issues specifically affecting people who use drugs (PWUD) and/or other intersecting historically marginalized populations. A successful applicant will have staff and/or volunteers with diverse backgrounds who are sensitive to drug user health issues.
 - If applicable, provide specific examples of how any identified subcontractors demonstrate these capacities.
- Describe your organizations or partnership/collaboration of multiple organizations' history promoting the health and dignity of individuals and communities impacted by drug use, or your plans to incorporate this mission into your core activities, and how your organization will be delivering program activities in a culturally appropriate manner.
 - If applicable, provide specific examples of how any identified subcontractors demonstrate these capacities.
- If applicable, highlight if your organization or partnership/collaboration of multiple organizations and/or any proposed subcontractors serve the following prioritized groups:
 - Those experiencing homelessness and housing instability,
 - Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC),
 - Federal or NC-recognized tribal communities, and/or
 - Those transitioning from correctional settings to the community.

E. Evidence of Collaborations/Partnerships (16 points) – Suggested page limit: 1 ¼ pages

- ☐ Describe how you will collaborate on this project or initiative with other relevant organizations in your community and how this project will improve collaboration between local stakeholders and/or engage new ones.
- ☐ Describe how you will verify that projects or services are not being duplicated in the community and with the population served.

F. Performance Measures and Program Evaluation (12 points) – Suggested page limit: 1 page

- ☐ Detail how you will evaluate your project.
- ☐ Describe how you will engage the priority population in the design and implementation of the evaluation of this project.
- ☐ Recipients providing direct services will be required to report client-level data on elements including but not limited to demographic characteristics, substance use, diagnosis(es), services received, and types of medications for opioid use disorder received. Explain how you will capture this data. (See <https://nctopps.ncdmh.net/dev/gettingstartedwithnctopps.asp> for a suggested tool.)
- ☐ Explain how you will monitor the project and capture metrics for each of the supported strategies included in your project. You may wish to include metrics in a table format. Consult the suggested metrics provided below:

3. Letters of Commitment and Letters of Support (0 points) – Required, not scored

Letters of commitment must be included from any agency or community organization integral to the success of proposed activities. Additional letters of support that are relevant and descriptive will strengthen applications. Each key partner referenced in the application narrative and/or the budget should have an accompanying letter of commitment/support to demonstrate evidence of collaboration. The partnership highlighted in the letter of commitment/support should also be reflected in the application narrative. Letters of commitment/support will not be scored, but they will be considered in connection with the scored Evidence of Collaborations/Partnerships section of the Project Narrative.

Letters must be included with each application as an appendix and will not count toward the narrative page limit. Do not have letters sent separately to Lincoln County. Letters sent separately from applications will not be read by reviewers.

The following are required letters of support/commitment:

- From partnering with local school systems or youth organizations applying to **Strategy 3: Early Intervention.**
- From partnering jail/detention center, Sheriff's Office, or Police Department for organizations applying to **Strategy 10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs.**
- From partnering jail/detention center, Sheriff's Office, or Police Department for organizations applying to **Strategy 11: Addiction Treatment for Incarcerated Persons.**

4. Latest audited financial statement – Required, not scored

Latest audited financial statement, including Management Letter. If unable to provide, please attach a written explanation.

5. Documentation of Tax Identification Number – Required, not scored

All applicants are required to include Tax Identification (TIN) documentation. Those applicants that are private non-profit agencies are to include a copy of an IRS determination letter regarding the agency's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. (This letter normally includes the agency's tax identification number, so it would also satisfy that documentation requirement.) If, during the project period, the recipient agency has any changes to its 501(c)(3) status, it must notify Lincoln County immediately.

6. For non-profit agencies only – All required, not scored

- A.** IRS Determination Letter: Provide a copy of an IRS determination letter that states that your organization has been granted exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization's name and address on the letter must match your current organization's name and address. This IRS determination letter can also satisfy the documentation requirement of your organization's tax identification number (TIN).
- B.** Verification of 501(c)(3) Status Form: If applicable, an Authorized Representative must annually submit verification that the organization remains a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
- C.** Copy of Form 990 Federal Tax return filed for the latest fiscal year.
- D.** Agency organizational chart.
- E.** Current Board of Directors Roster with names, addresses, office terms (with dates), and professional and/or community affiliations.
- F.** A completed and signed statement which includes a copy of the Agency's adopted Code of Ethics.
- G.** A copy of the Agency's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (if applicable).

7. Certifications and required forms – Required, not scored

See the Application Form provided by Lincoln County for all required forms and signatures. Please note that some forms require signatures from Board Chairs/Elected Officials, and two require notarization.

8. Budget and budget narrative – Required, not scored

Use the Budget Worksheet to document your anticipated program budget, including line-item calculations and a budget narrative. The budget and budget narrative must comply with the budget requirements listed in Section 2.5. Budget Requirements. The budget will not be scored, but if it is incomplete or does not appropriately support the proposed project, **up to 5 points will be deducted from the total score.**

It is important to note that continued financial support beyond the approved timeframe is not guaranteed, and applicants must apply again for future funding beyond FY 27-28. All awards are subject to the availability of current opioid settlement funds.

The budget and narrative worksheet must be submitted as a separate Excel file.

3.3. Application Checklist

The following checklist is for your reference only as you prepare your application.

- ☐ **One PDF file** that includes **all** the following components:
 - ☐ Filled application, including agency information, Proposal Summary, and Project Narrative
 - ☐ Letters of Commitment and/or letters of Support
 - ☐ Latest audited financial statement, if applicable, with Management Letter
 - ☐ Documentation of Tax Identification Number
 - ☐ **For non-profit agencies only:**
 - ☐ IRS Determination Letter
 - ☐ Copy of Form 990 Federal Tax return filed for the latest fiscal year
 - ☐ Agency organizational chart
 - ☐ Current Board of Directors Roster with names, addresses, office terms (with dates), and professional and/or community affiliations
 - ☐ A completed and signed statement which includes a copy of the Agency's adopted Code of Ethics
 - ☐ A copy of the Agency's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (if applicable)
 - ☐ A. Signed Application Certification (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ B. Signed Verification of 501(c)(3) Status Form (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ C. Signed Certification of No Overdue Tax Debts (**requires notarization**) (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ D. Signed Code of Conduct Policy (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ E. Signed Conflict of Interest Policy (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ F. Signed E-Verify form (**requires notarization**) (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ G. Individuals Authorized to Submit Forms (included in Application Form)
 - ☐ H. Business Association Addendum (included in Application Form)
- ☐ **One Excel file** that contains a completed budget worksheet with narrative justification

3.4. Application Evaluation Process and Criteria

3.4.1. Application Evaluation Process

1. Initial screening for eligibility and completeness

Lincoln County staff will screen all applications to ensure they are complete (i.e., they include all the required information and documentation), that they are eligible, and that they have complied with basic RFA requirements such as selecting only one eligible Option A strategy per application. Incomplete and/or ineligible applications will not be reviewed further.

2. Reviewer scoring

At least three reviewers who have experience or expertise with opioid overdose prevention, treatment, and/or harm reduction will score each application using the scoring criteria in Section 3.3.2. below. Reviewers may or may not leave comments in addition to their scores.

All reviewers will be asked if they have conflicts of interest with any applicants; reviewers will not be assigned to review an application for which they have a conflict of interest.

3. Request for additional information

At their option, the application reviewers may request additional information from any or all applicants for the purpose of clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the application. However, agencies and organizations are cautioned that reviewers are not required to request clarification. Therefore, all applications should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the agency or organization.

4. Addressing scoring discrepancies

Lincoln County staff will compile scores for each application and identify any scoring discrepancies, such as a large range of scores on one application, a high or low outlier score, and significantly harsh or lenient review patterns. A review committee call will be convened about any application for which there is a discrepancy. All reviewers who scored such an application will discuss their scores with each other and will have an opportunity to revise and resubmit their scores.

Lincoln County staff retains the right to exclude or adjust scores under certain circumstances. Examples of these circumstances include:

- The ability to exclude a reviewer's score for one or more applications if, for instance, the scores are or appear to be influenced by illegal discrimination,
- The ability to adjust a reviewer or review committee's scores up or down uniformly across the applications reviewed based on patterns of harshness or lenience, or
- The ability to exclude a reviewer's score if the scores they submitted are incomplete.

5. Recommendations to County Commissioners

Based on applications' average scores after reviewer revisions and government staff exclusion or adjustment, if applicable, Lincoln County staff will make a recommendation to County Commissioners

about which applications should be funded. Funding, if awarded, will be awarded to the highest-scoring applications. Lincoln County reserves the right not to fund any applications.

3.4.2. Application Scoring Criteria

Applications will be scored based on the responses to the application content areas in the chart below. Each content area shall be scored on a scale of 1-4 based on the scale below:

1.	POOR	Applicant only marginally addressed the application area
2.	AVERAGE	Applicant adequately addressed the application area
3.	GOOD	Applicant did a thorough job of addressing the application area
4.	EXCELLENT	Applicant provided a superior response to the application area

Each content area will be weighted, and the score of 1 to 4 will be multiplied by the assigned weight of the content area. The following represents the evaluation criteria and relative importance of each criterion (criteria weight):

Evaluation Criteria		Score Distribution	Weight
1. Proposal Summary:	deduct 2 points if missing	0 pts.	--
2. Assessment of Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear and appropriate geographic area to be served b. Clear statement of needs and gaps in services c. A thorough description of priority populations that is well supported by evidence 	0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 4-16 pts.	4
3. Project Description and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Exactly one of the eligible Option A strategies is selected, and the proposed project clearly supports the identified strategy b. Well-planned project that is likely to lead to the intended opioid-related impacts, based on the evidence base about strategy and/or activity effectiveness for the prioritized population c. Clear and appropriate plans to incorporate feedback from program participants to inform program delivery d. Intended impacts of the project will likely meet community needs/service gaps e. Applicant has engaged or will engage the priority population meaningfully in developing the proposed project f. Proposed project fits the applicant's organizational goals well g. Project timelines are achievable and adequate to make intended impacts h. Clear and appropriate plans for project sustainability 	0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 7-28 pts.	7
4. Equity Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project is likely to improve health inequities and/or social determinants of health b. The project is likely to reach, benefit, and equitably engage historically marginalized populations and uninsured and underinsured people 	0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 2-8 pts.	2

<p>5. Organizational Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicant demonstrates the skills and capacity needed to manage the funding award and meet reporting and compliance requirements. b. Subcontractors are clearly identified, if applicable, and will enhance the success of the project c. Applicant (team) has demonstrated the capacity to conduct culturally humble, sensitive, and appropriate work d. Applicant (team) has demonstrated a clear understanding of issues that affect people who use drugs e. Applicant (team) has demonstrated experience and/or clear and adequate plans for promoting the health and dignity of people and communities impacted by drug use f. Applicant (team) has demonstrated experience serving those experiencing homelessness and housing instability; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; federal or NC-recognized tribal communities, and/or those transitioning from correctional settings to the community 	<p>0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 5-20 pts.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6. Evidence of Collaborations/Partnerships, Letters of Commitment/Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear plan to collaborate with other relevant community organizations that is likely to improve collaboration between local stakeholders b. Clear plan to verify that projects or services are not being duplicated in the community and with the population served c. Letters of commitment/support are present from all key project partners and match partners' proposed roles in the project 	<p>0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 4-16 pts.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>7. Performance Measures and Program Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specific, achievable plans for program evaluation that will yield meaningful assessment of the project's success b. Clear and appropriate plans to engage the priority population in evaluation design and implementation c. Clear and appropriate plans to capture client data (if applicable) and proposed metrics, and to monitor project progress regularly 	<p>0 pts. if missing. Otherwise, 3-12 pts.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>8. Project Budget: If the budget is incomplete and/or does not appropriately support the proposed project, deduct up to 5 points</p>	<p>0 pts.</p>	<p>--</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>0-100 points</p>	

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL LEGAL PROVISIONS

4.1 Additional Legal Provisions

If selected, applications will be fully incorporated as part of the contract. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the following terms, in addition to all other terms in this RFA:

1. Deviations

Lincoln County reserves the right to allow or disallow minor deviations or technicalities should the County deem it to be to the best interest of the County. Lincoln County shall be the sole judge of what is to be considered a minor deviation or technicality.

2. Indemnity

Applicant shall indemnify and hold the County, its agents and employees, harmless against any claims, demands, causes of action, or other liability, including attorney fees, on account of personal injuries or death or on account of property damages arising out of or relating to the work to be performed by Applicant hereunder, resulting from the negligence of or the willful act or omission of Applicant, agents, employees and subcontractors.

3. Responsibility of Compliance with Legal Requirements

The Applicant's products, services, and facilities shall be in full compliance with any applicable state, federal, local, environmental, and safety laws, regulations, ordinances, and standards or any standards adopted by nationally recognized testing facilities, regardless of whether or not they are referred to in the Proposal documents.

4. Advertising

In submitting its application, agencies and organizations agree not to use the results therefrom or as part of any news release or commercial advertising without prior written approval of the County.

5. Insurance

Upon award, the applicant is to provide proof of commercial insurance with, at a minimum, the following coverage and limits:

- a. **Workers' Compensation** – The Agency shall provide and maintain Workers' Compensation insurance, as required by the laws of the State of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury per accident. This insurance must cover all of the Agency's employees who are engaged in any work under this Contract.
- b. **General Liability** – The Agency shall provide and maintain General Liability Coverage at a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. Non-owned vehicle coverage may be included in General Liability Coverage with proof of a minimum combined single limit of \$1,000,000 bodily injury and property damage; \$1,000,000 uninsured/under-insured motorist; and \$1,000,000 medical payment.
- c. **Automobile Liability** – The Agency shall provide and maintain Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles used in connection with this Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$1,000,000 bodily injury and property damage; \$1,000,000 uninsured/under-insured motorist; and \$1,000,000 medical payment.