



North Carolina Training
& Technical Assistance Center



WELCOME

Hello! We hope your recovery efforts in wake of hurricane Helene have been bountiful and significant. Links for aid and other resources will be attached to this newsletter until they are expired or no longer available! The NC TTA Center at APNC will continue to send DMH/DD/SUS and other pertinent communications and resources as we receive them. Below are links to resources to help those affected by Helene.

- [List of resources for people in affected areas of Western Carolina](#)
- [APNC Hurricane Helene Information and Resource Hub](#)
- [FEMA aid in North Carolina](#)

You and anyone affected by the storm are still in our thoughts.

Thank you and be safe!

APNC Member Award Recipient:

Prevention Pioneer - Winner, Zorana Roldan Romo

The Prevention Pioneer Award honors the idea of moving upstream to stop substance use before it starts. This person works tirelessly to educate individuals and communities, enact prevention-based policies, and keeps the health of our community's youth at the forefront.



Zorana Roldan Romo (right) with incoming APNC Board Member Andrea Skidmore (left)

Zorana is the supervisor of Prevention Services at Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center where she has worked in the community for 19 years.

Zorana is a Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant (CSAPC) and a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC).

Zorana is a lifelong learner who is always willing to put forth her best effort by making sure she has a clear understanding and the resources available to get the job done. Her dedication, experience, and confidence exuberate in meetings and through her smile. All of these great attributes spill over and can be seen through her staff and the wonderful prevention work at Anuvia for their communities.



FROM THE DESK OF DMH/DD/SUS

The Annual Synar Report (ASR) is on the DHHS website and is open for public comment until 12/16/2024. To review the ASR and for more information on how to submit your comments, please [Click Here](#).

SUPTRS Prevention Block Grant Approval Process

DMH/DD/SUS has initiated a new process for seeking approval to use innovative or new pre-approved strategies. The process is designed to:

- formalize and streamline requests and reviews.
- ensure an evidence-informed review of all requests.
- track trends in implementation changes.

The following link provides the online form for NC prevention block grant providers to request approval for any non-standard issues related to SUPTRS strategy implementation.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7970255/NC-Prevention-Strategy-Approval-Request-Form>

Please complete the form when you are requesting approval related to one or more of the following reasons:

- Implementation of an "innovative strategy" that is not yet one of the NC Prevention Block Grant pre-approved strategies (i.e., not a strategy listed in the most recent DMH/DD/SUS Block Grant Education and Environmental Strategy/Intervention Guidance document).

- Implementation of a pre-approved strategy that was not approved initially through your most recent needs assessment process and
- Modifications to approved strategy implementation plans. For example, if strategy implementation differs from the best practices steps in the FY25 Strategy Guidance document.

As the NC SUPTRS evaluation team, PIRE will manage the reception of these requests. PIRE will coordinate with DMH/DD/SUS, the NC TTA Center, and other statewide partners to determine the decisions and responses to requests. Final decisions will be provided within 10 business days.

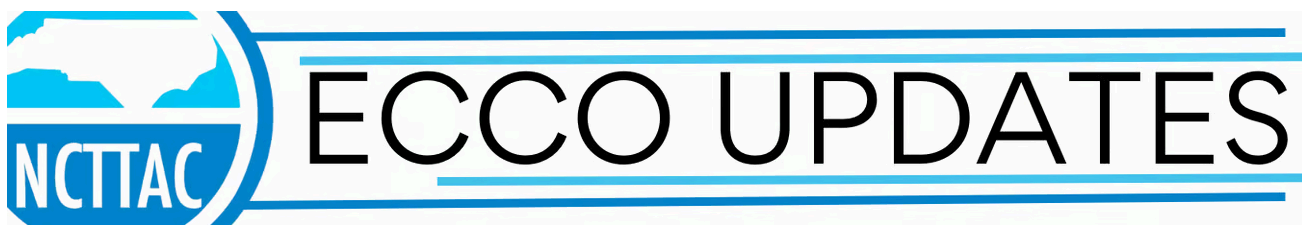
Please note:

COVID-19 and ARPA strategy requests must be made through this process.

If you have more than one type of request to submit simultaneously, please complete a separate form for each request.

If your request pertains to multiple communities you serve, ensure your address details that are unique to each community.

Contact Jessica Edwards JEdwards@PIRE.org for any questions related to the approval process.



General Updates for All Providers

Keep the following in mind as you Plan, Implement, and Evaluate your SUPTRS services this year!

- Beginning January 15, 2025, Ecco will close each month on the 15th!
- If your IP's have not been approved consider the following:
 - The strategy may not have been submitted into Ecco. Check to make sure all of our strategies are listed and submitted in Ecco. If there is a strategy currently listed that you will not be implementing and it contains NO data, it can be deleted by you.
 - The strategy has not been received and reviewed by Wake Forest in the strategy selection process. Note: You should have received a logic model with possible recommendations by now. If not, contact Dr. Melinda Pankratz at mpankrat@wakehealth.edu regarding your strategy selections.
 - The strategy is a new YPE or Communication Campaign which has not received approval by the state. Contact Jessica Edwards at JEdwards@PIRE.org to request approval for the new approved or innovative strategy.
- If you experience any questions about the Ecco reporting, contact Robert Greer, the NC TTA Center Prevention Support Coordinator, at rgreer@apnc.org or through the Help feature in Ecco.

- If you experience any technical difficulties while using Ecco, please contact Marcus Bouligny by using the *Help* feature in Ecco.
- If you would like access to the most recent recording of the ECCO Updates Training, contact rgreer@apnc.org.



UPCOMING SUPTRS MEETINGS, TRAININGS, & CONFERENCES

The New NC TTA Center Learning Management System is Almost Ready!

We, at the NC TTA Center, would like to introduce our new LMS system: powered by TOVUTI. Tovuti is a learning management system (LMS) that we will use going forward to host and store training and recordings provided by the NC TTA Center. Our Statewide partners, SUS BG providers, discretionary-funded providers and LME/MCO's should have all received an introductory email from Tovuti and instructions to set-up your account from Robert Greer by now.

As a part of the set-up for the NC TTA LMS, we need your help to finish creating your account by completing your profile. This account will provide you with access to our self-study courses. You will be able to access the courses at any time once you have created this account. Upon completion of a course, a certificate will be generated, if applicable for the course CEU's will be granted.

Note: General courses, such as Ecco Basics and Youth Engagement, will be available to all providers upon creating your account.

As future courses are uploaded, they will be announced and made available upon request.

If you did not receive an email from Tovuti dated November 14, 2024, let Robert Greer know by contacting him at rgreer@apnc.org.

ECCO Onboarding (general course - available now)

Do you have new staff onboard who need training on the Ecco reporting system? Are you in need of a refresher for entering data into Ecco? Then this training is for you!

This online course will highlight the basics of understanding and inner workings of ECCO. You will learn how to upload, edit, and manage your strategies. As well as learn to input hours, process data, and what will get your IP's approved or returned. We will review the process of submitting TA requests through ECCO and when you should contact your local ECCO TA person directly.

[Log in here!](#)

Youth Engagement (general course - available now)

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is expanding opportunities for prevention providers to engage youth in their prevention work through the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services ("Block Grant"). These changes are meant to broaden the opportunities to engage youth in planning, tailoring, implementing, and/or evaluating prevention programming to increase prevention's responsiveness to the needs of young people across NC and improve its reach and effectiveness.

[Log in here!](#)

Youth Prevention Education (YPE) Training on January 27th and 28th from 9am-1pm

North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education prepares direct service prevention providers to implement evidence-based and/or standards-based Youth Prevention Education (YPE) programs. North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education provides a basic understanding of the components and best practices for implementing any YPE program. This training will increase participants' knowledge and skills in planning, managing, facilitating, evaluating, and monitoring a Youth Prevention Education program. The training is divided into self-paced pre-work and two days of content with engaging activities that allow participants to meet the previously stated objectives by directly applying the material. The training will be interactive, with breakout rooms and group discussions.

To receive the Prerequisite Course and register contact [Robert Greer](#).

Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Skills Training (SUMPST) on February 10 & 12, 2025

SUMPST (Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Skills Training) prepares direct service providers to implement evidence-based Substance Abuse Prevention Programs and learn about the Prevention System in North Carolina. SUMPST provides a basic understanding of the components and best practices related to effective prevention practice. All block grant providers who are new to the North Carolina Prevention System are required to complete all components of this training at least once. Block grant providers will receive priority registration. If space is available, other groups will be allowed to register. The training will occur via independent study and include an interactive 2-day workshop. Keep an eye out for the Prerequisite Course coming soon to our LMS by [clicking here!](#)

Courses to be Released to the NC TTA Center LMS Soon!_

North Carolina Approved Communication Campaign Series

As an effort to bring awareness to the various North Carolina supported communication campaigns, a series of webinars will be held to highlight each. The webinars are open to all NC prevention providers, grantees, coalitions, etc., who are interested in or currently delivering either of the following:

“Lock Your Meds”_

Lock Your Meds NC is a communication campaign designed to create positive behavior changes around medication storage and disposal. In this webinar, Holly Carter, Campaign Coordinator, will give us an overview of the strategies, assets, licensing agreements, and resources available to support the message in your community.

Talk It Up. Lock It Up!™: Changing Home Environments to Reduce Underage Access to Alcohol

Talk It Up. Lock It Up!™ is not intended as a "media campaign solely." It is better described as a multi-layered, comprehensive community change campaign to limit youth social access/availability to alcohol in the home by changing the physical environment around alcohol. Comprehensive approaches related to alcohol examine how the environment in which young people live impacts their decisions about alcohol, including, but not limited to, the messages they receive and the images they see, the norms of their communities, families, and social groups, and the availability of alcohol (both social and retail access). Join Mina Cook, Alcohol TTA Center Director, for an overview of the **Talk It Up. Lock It Up!™** campaign and toolkit, as well as a discussion on how to increase and measure your impact with **Talk It Up. Lock It Up!™** within your community.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

This webinar will provide an overview of *the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline*, previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which offers 24/7 call, text, and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crises

or any other kind of emotional distress. This training is to highlight the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

We Have the PROOF

This session will help participants understand the Proof Alliance NC prevention program and learn about the various types of media and marketing messages that they have developed over the years. Participants will be able to learn how to utilize some of these materials for their own community-based messaging efforts to promote the importance of alcohol-free pregnancies across our state.

Tobacco and Merchant Education Webinar Series

Synar Training

The Synar team hosted a statewide training on July 25, 2024 to discuss the implementation of new processes and tools as they continue to prioritize lowering the State's retailer violation rate (RVR). Topics covered in this recording will include: submission of a 2-year plan or less to reach 90% of the catchment area; catchment area saturation tracking; and retail list maintenance guidance.

Retail List Verification Training

This recording is of the July 31, 2024 training where providers were asked to assess their ECCO outlets list. Over time, outlets on the list have gone out of business or stopped selling tobacco products - two critical elements of Synar eligibility - making the list less accurate. NC DHHS aims to discover ineligible outlets on the list that can be removed so they will not be selected for the Synar sample this year.

This training showed provider staff how to evaluate outlet eligibility through internet searches and phone calls. It provided detailed instructions and examples of how an Excel spreadsheet captures the eligibility information.

* If you experience any issues with your login or access to the courses, contact Robert Greer, the NC TTA Center Prevention Support Coordinator, at rgreer@apnc.org.

Other Training Offered by our Statewide Partners

Check out the following training supported by DHHS/DD/SUS:

- [Community Impact of North Carolina](#)
- [Southeast Prevention Technology Transfer Center](#)



F.Y.I. CORNER

Information shared in the "FYI Corner" is not endorsed by the NCTTA Center or DMH/DD/SUS and may have costs associated with the event.

Holiday Donations for communities affected by Helene

The damage from Helene and Deby will take an unknown amount of time to fix and their impacts will likely impact most residents of Western, North Carolina. If you are able, below are a list of resources to help support a family in need during the holiday season. We thank you for your thoughtfulness and hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

- [Holiday Hope Adopt-A-Family Program](#)
 - [Hearts With Hands](#)
 - [Project Renew](#)
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Upcoming Training and Conferences

Nonprofit Learning Lab

The Nonprofit Learning Lab is a national nonprofit that trains leaders in the nonprofit sector. They offer daily online nonprofit training on training, facilitation, fundraising, strategic planning, communications, volunteer management, and [free resources to help you lead your organization!](#) Check out their website for more information!

Cannabis and Adolescents: An Overview of the Science and Concerns from Leading Experts on January 15th, 2025 from 1-2:30PM

Experts discuss the complex relationship between cannabis use and adolescent development with Dr. Mark Gold, M.D., and Dr. Sarah Vinson, M.D. The presentations will explore the effects of cannabis on adolescent brain development, its potential long-term consequences, and emerging trends in use among younger populations. [Register here!](#)

CADCA's 35th Annual National Leadership Forum: SAMHSA's 21st Prevention Day will be held in National Harbor, MD on February 3-6, 2025. [Click here](#) for more information!

Beyond School Hours: The Premier National Education Conference in Orlando, Florida on February 14-16, 2025. For more information [click here!](#)

National AfterSchool Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on March 9-12, 2025. For more information [click here!](#)

2025 RIZE Conference Visionaries United a Prevention Conference in Charlotte, NC on April 16-19, 2025. [Click here](#) for more information!

National Prevention Network Conference in Washington, DC on August 11-13, 2025. [Updated information coming soon!](#)

Interested in hearing more from the TTA Center? Stay totally up to date by joining our mailing list!!

To join, click here:

Sent to: amcginty@apnc.org

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