



North Carolina Training
& Technical Assistance Center



WELCOME

Hello! Fall is here, hear the yell

Back to school, ring the bell

Brand new shoes, walking blues

Climb the fence, books, and pens

I can tell that we are... gonna finish the year strong

Make sure to take time for yourself this season!

Ask an Expert

This issue of our newsletter and the next will highlight Dr. Benjamin (Ben) Gleason. Since ECCO recently opened for you to begin setting up your new strategy implementation plans, we figured, "Why not ask the man behind ECCO?" So, here's part one:

Hi everyone. My name is Dr. Benjamin Gleason and I am one of the co-founders of the Prospectus Group. My partner Yvonne Bouligny and I work with our experienced Prospectus Group team to support North Carolina's prevention needs. I got my start in substance use prevention in 2002, as an AmeriCorps*VISTA youth development specialist at Bay Area Community Resources (BACR), in Richmond, CA. This powerful experience demonstrated that youth-driven, community-focused prevention can enact meaningful change for communities, as well as support the development of youth leaders.

Prospectus uses those same change models to support our prevention providers across North Carolina. We created the ECCO data collection and reporting system to support the amazing work prevention providers do, and to make the process of data collection easy and breezy :)

While many prevention providers across North Carolina are familiar with ECCO, we wanted to take a moment to explain it to those who are not yet familiar. Below is basic information about ECCO.



ECCO: 5Ws and 1H

What: ECCO is the data collection and reporting system in North Carolina.

Who: Providers enter data after every prevention activity.

Where: Go to <https://ecco.ncl.pro-sps.com/index.php> to enter the wonderful world of ECCO!

Why: Prevention providers do so many things to reach their outcomes. We want to make the task of entering data—not often a highlight of the job—easy, offering providers a way to show off all of their accomplishments!

When: Providers enter data as soon as possible after completing an approved prevention activity. This ensures accurate data collection and hopefully reduces stress around data collection and entry!

How: Providers sign up for an account, develop an implementation plan, and then begin entering data.

In our next issue, Dr. Gleason will answer some FAQs relevant to ECCO.

Have questions for Dr. Gleason? Send an email to rgreer@apnc.org!



FROM THE DESK OF DMH/DD/SUS

Effective immediately, providers receiving FY26 funding from the listed sources must submit

1) a copy of their **executed contract** to Dr. Angela Maxwell (angela.maxwell@dhhs.nc.gov) at the time the contract is executed between the provider and the LME-MCO

2) **monthly expenditures** to Dr. Angela Maxwell (angela.maxwell@dhhs.nc.gov) at the same time those expenditures are submitted to the LME-MCOs. This new language has been added to all FY26 allocation letters sent from DMH/DD/SUS to the LME-MCOs.

Funding Sources impacted –

1. SUPTRS traditional (continuation) allocation
2. SUPTRS Enhancement Funds
3. SUPTRS funds for Synar Projects
4. SOR 4
5. SPF-Rx
6. SPF-PFS
7. PDO

Please contact Jessica Dicken (Jessica.dicken@dhhs.nc.gov) or Angela Maxwell if there are any questions.



PARTNER UPDATES

Checking in with the NC Higher Education Consortium

Be Part of a Growing Network of Internship Opportunities

We're building an ever-growing list of substance use agencies interested in hosting student interns. This list will be shared with professors in public health, social work, and related disciplines, giving your agency visibility as a potential partner for internship placements.

By participating, your agency will:

- Gain exposure to professors seeking internship sites
- Welcome fresh perspectives from passionate students
- Boost your capacity for innovative prevention projects

Ready to join?

Complete our [Interest Form](#) today! While final placements are determined by professors and students, this is your chance to showcase your agency and make valuable connections!

Have questions? Contact us at nchec@apnc.org

Message from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

BG Strategy Approval Process—Are you planning to deliver a new program this year that has not previously been approved by the State? Well, here's what you need to do.

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

1. formalize and streamline requests and reviews.
2. ensure an evidence-informed review of all requests.
3. 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.

[**NC Prevention Block Grant
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:

- 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 responses address details that are unique to each community.

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



Attention All Block Grant Providers!

ECCO - Your implementation plans (IPs) are currently being approved within ECCO. Please check to make sure there are no comments/suggestions for correcting your IPs before approval.

- To access the most recent recording of our ECCO Updates and [Training](#), contact rgreer@apnc.org.
- Issues with Ecco reporting while preparing your implementation plans or entering process data, can also be directed to Robert Greer, the NC TTA Center Prevention Support Coordinator, at rgreer@apnc.org.
- When *technical difficulties* arise while using Ecco, such as lost data or account access issues, please use the Help feature to contact The Prospectus Group team. You may receive assistance or an email from either Ben Gleason, Nabila Sher, or Yvonne Bouligny.



Upcoming Office Hours

Come out and join us virtually for Office Hours from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. using the Zoom link for each session below:

- [September 18th](#) – Refining your Ecco Profiles and Bulk Hour Reporting

Look for more topics during our Office Hours as we prepare for the new fiscal year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Felicia Roberson at froberson@apnc.org or Robert Greer at rgreer@apnc.org.

Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Skills Training II (SUMPST II)
September 23 & 25, 2025, from 10 am - 2 pm each day

Ready to build on what you learned in SUMPST?

Join us for **SUMPST II**, where direct service providers will explore the Strategic Prevention Framework more deeply by applying it to a real-world case study. This hands-on training strengthens your capacity to deliver effective substance use and misuse prevention services in your community.

All block grant providers who have previously attended SUMPST are welcome to participate in the two-day training. If the training was completed within the past FY, please be sure your SUMPST certificate of completion is in the Ecco briefcase for FY 2024-2025. All other registrants may be requested to verify their completion of SUMPST before December 2024 by placing their certificate of completion in the current FY 2025-2026 briefcase.

[Register Here!](#)

NC TTA Center's Learning Management System Course Listing
General Courses

- 2024 Audit Prep Webinar Recordings
- 2025 Audit Prep Webinar Recordings
- Bringing Prevention Models to Life: Practical Applications for Everyday Work
- Building Effective Partnerships for Substance Misuse Prevention
- Conducting Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase Surveys in North Carolina Training
- ECCO Onboarding
- Engaging Youth in the Community: How Prevention Efforts Can Be Impacted by Young People
- FY25 SYNAR Coverage Study Training
- Innovative Strategies for Substance Use/Misuse Prevention: A Look Inside
- Introduction to Social and Emotional Learning: Promoting Wellbeing in School and Community Settings
- NC's Required Communication Campaign Training FY25
- NC's Required Foundations of Youth Prevention Education (YPE) *Prerequisite*
- NC's Required Social Norms in Substance Misuse Prevention: All the Essentials *Prerequisite*
- North Carolina's Youth Engagement Training
- Overview of the North Carolina Approved Communication Campaigns and Awareness Initiatives Recordings
- Prevention Certification: An Overview
- Retail List Verification Training
- Substance Use Misuse Prevention Skills Training (SUMPST) *Prerequisite*
- The Importance of Readiness in Prevention Planning

- The Intersection of Social Determinants of Health and Substance Misuse

Conducting Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase Surveys in North Carolina Training is now available on our LMS

This recorded webinar was delivered in February 2023 and facilitated by Nancy McGee to provide the most current best practices and NC’s current required policies when conducting Alcohol and Tobacco Purchase Surveys.

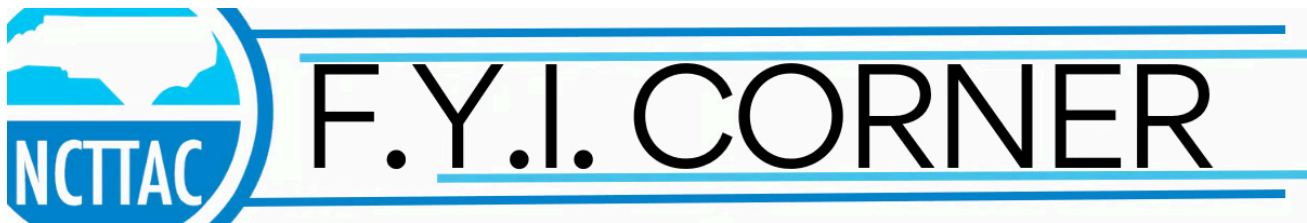
The recorded training can be accessed [by clicking here!](#)

For more information on Alcohol Purchase Surveys, don’t hesitate to contact Mina Cook at mjcook@uncg.edu.

For more information about conducting Tobacco Purchase Surveys, feel free to contact the DMH/DD/SUS Synar Team: David Haywood at David.Haywood@dhhs.nc.gov or Taofikat Oladipo at taoladipo@uncg.edu.

Note: The NC TTA Center’s Learning Management System, powered by Tovuti, is a free service offered to the DMH/DD/SUS Block Grant and discretionary funded programs. All users will have access to the general courses upon creating an account. Other courses may be assigned to you upon registration. To access the general courses, log in to your account by [clicking here!](#)

Having problems accessing our learning management system (LMS)? Contact Robert Greer at rgreer@apnc.org.



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.



Join us at APNC's semi-annual conference, where the brightest minds in the behavioral health and substance use sectors come together! Our conference is the perfect platform for professionals to share cutting-edge, evidence-based practices and collaborate on innovative solutions to tackle substance use disorders (SUDs).

We will be offering a 3-hour pre-conference HIV session on Sunday, October 26 from 2:00-5:00pm.

[Register Here!](#)

Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Behavioral Health Disorders

This study will create a blueprint for a sustainable infrastructure to implement preventive interventions that promote behavioral health. It will also identify funding needs and strategies to support the infrastructure; identify gaps in policy research and health services research that may serve as barriers to widespread program implementation; and recommend state and federal policies to support the financing and infrastructure (including workforce development and data interoperability) for promoting behavioral health. [Click here for resources!](#)

CADCA Blog Post

The following blog highlights an alcohol outlet store assessment session during the CADCA 2025 Mid-year Conference. [Conducting Store Assessments in Alcohol Outlets | CADCA](#)

Calls to Reassess Cannabis Risks: New Research Reported

Learn more about consensus data on the consequences of marijuana in young people, [click here!](#)

CDC Foundation - Overdose Measures Matter

This new website is designed to help communities strengthen their overdose prevention efforts through practical data collection and evaluation tools. Explore the site by clicking here: www.OverdoseMeasuresMatter.org

DEA Releases 2024 Edition of Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has released the 2024 edition of [Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide](#), which is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the United States. [Read Here!](#)

Mental Health First Aid Training

For more information on how you can get trained in Adult or Youth Mental Health First Aid visit this [website and register today!](#)

National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives

Learn more about how you can provide a science-based prevention response to school shootings by following [this link](#).

Operation Parent<> is a national nonprofit that exists to empower parents (and caregivers) to fully engage in ongoing conversations with their K-12 children about technology, substance use, and mental health issues for prevention. Our evidence-based parent handbooks and free monthly webinars raise the awareness and confidence needed to jumpstart these conversations. They've sold over 300,000 handbooks and have hosted thousands of webinars. For more information on their *FREE* materials and webinars, [click here!](#)

Johnny's Ambassadors

This website offers THC resources and materials for middle school and high school teens and teachers. To learn more [click here!](#)

SAMHSA's September 2025 Toolkit

With the right treatment, support, and resources, recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life) for everyone. Use this toolkit to learn more about what SAMHSA is doing to support people in recovery and how to share this information with your audiences. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of people in or seeking recovery from mental and substance use disorders. [Download the Toolkit Here!](#)

SAMHSA's October 2025 Toolkit

October is Substance Use Prevention Month! Prevention Month lifts up the national conversation – to showcase prevention's positive effects on communities across the country. [Download the Toolkit Here!](#)

Significant Benefits of Positive Parent Support Programs

Learn about an **Evidence-based Parenting Program that has been shown to promote positive outcomes for children and youth by providing families with the support they need to nurture their social, emotional, and behavioral health.** [Click here](#) for more information!

In a nationally representative survey of more than 10,000 high school students, a team led by Keck School of Medicine of USC researchers found that about twice as many teens used nicotine pouches in 2024 than in 2023. [Read the full article here.](#)

Vaping: Know the Facts for Parents

This is a free course that will discuss how vaping affects the adolescent brain and lungs and debunk common myths surrounding vaping. We will also discuss the brain science of addiction and how to prevent the development of a substance use disorder. [Enroll for FREE](#)

Are you interested in hearing more from the NC TTA Center and staying current on NC's Substance Use Prevention Services? Use the link below to visit our website, and you will automatically be subscribed to our mailing list! To join, click here:

[Mailing List](#)



Addiction
Professionals of
North Carolina



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