



DISPENSING HOPE **QUARTERLY**





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Reflections from our CEO

As we begin a new fiscal year, I'm filled with gratitude for all that we've accomplished, and inspired by what lies ahead.

The first quarter of this fiscal year marks the start of Year Three of our Three-Year Strategic Plan, a time to hone in on sustainability, awareness, programming, outreach, and connection. Our continued focus on these priorities will strengthen our foundation and ensure those who are uninsured with low income can count on impactful NC MedAssist programs for years to come.

Reflecting on Year Two, we made tremendous strides toward expanding access and improving care. We launched our naran distribution pilot program with Mecklenburg County and Alliance Health, hosted our first-ever patient focus group, and decreased barriers to access by using tools to help patients better understand their medications. Our Free Pharmacy and Mobile Free Pharmacy programs provided more than \$48 million in prescription and over-the-counter medicines to thousands across the state.

We also celebrated milestones that reflect the power of partnership — working with organizations from across the state to provide support that helped raise \$250,000 for our 10th Anniversary Executive Luncheon, joining forces with global and local organizations to deliver more than \$2 million in critical medication to families affected by Hurricane Helene, and collaborating with Charlotte area partners in the Wellness Without Walls street psychiatry pilot to bring care directly to our unsheltered neighbors.

In the year ahead, we'll build on this momentum by strengthening our standards of impact, expanding education to drive better outcomes, and using technology to streamline processes and increase efficiency.

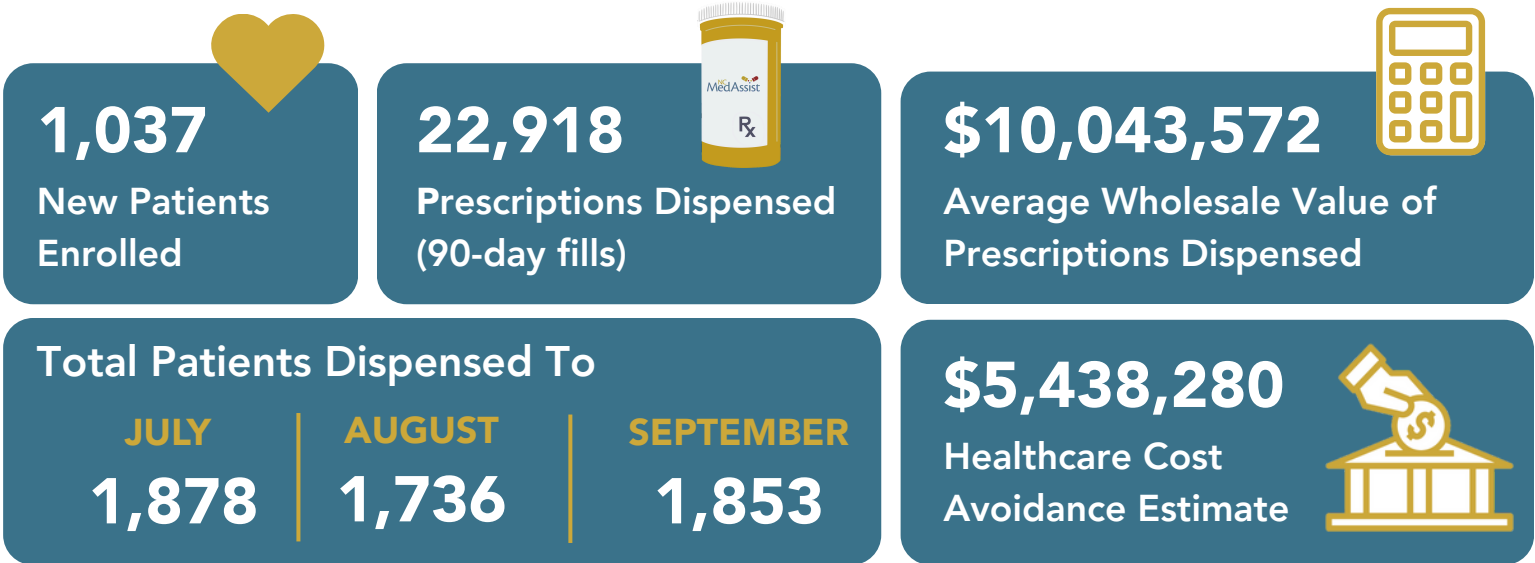
Together, we're moving closer to a future where no one has to choose between food and the medicine that sustains their health. Thank you for helping us continue to dispense opportunities through improved health.

Sincerely,

Brenda Vass
Chief Executive Officer
NC MedAssist



Q1 IMPACT SUMMARY | **Free Pharmacy Program**



Q1 IMPACT SUMMARY | **Mobile Free Pharmacy Program**



* First time holding an event in this county

Q1 IMPACT SUMMARY | OTC FREE STORE**Store Visits**

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1,224	1,004	1,116

\$1,532,517**In-Kind Donation Value of
OTC Medicine Received****\$547,662****Approximate Value of OTC
Medicine Distributed****Thank you to our
in-kind donors****Second Harvest Food Bank****Americares****Direct Relief****Genexa****AmerisourceBergen - Cencora****Heart to Heart International****204****Nicotine Replacement
Therapy (NRT) Units
Distributed****218****Units of Narcan
Distributed****Partnership with Diaper Bank of NC brings
adult incontinence products to OTC Free Store**

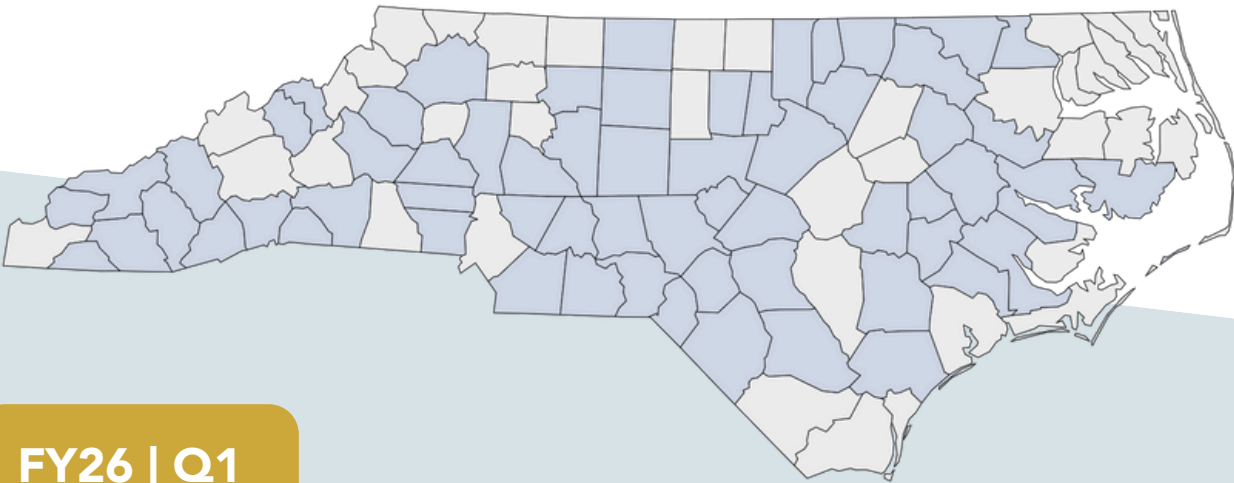
Starting in July, the NC MedAssist OTC Free Store began offering adult incontinence products thanks to a new partnership with Diaper Bank of North Carolina.

A free one-month supply of incontinence products, including pull-up underwear, bladder control pads, and underpads for the bed, is available while supplies last.

176**Units (1-month Supply)
of Adult Incontinence
Products Distributed****58****Flu & COVID
Vaccines Administered**

NCMA partnered with Walgreens to bring a flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic to the OTC Free Store on September 24. Participants without insurance were able to receive their vaccinations at no cost.

Q1 IMPACT SUMMARY | **PARTNERS IN HOPE**



FY26 | Q1

74

Partners in Hope

Across North Carolina, health providers connect patients to pharmacy services as part of their continuum of care.

NC MedAssist is proud to partner with these community providers to help uninsured patients access free prescription medications through our Free Pharmacy Program.

70

Counties

As a **Partner in Hope**, these community providers enjoy benefits that include, but are not limited to, patient enrollment and medication utilization reports, status updates, communication, access to OTCs and more.

147

Partner Sites

81%

Percentage of NCMA patients referred by Partners in Hope



FY25 Annual Partners Report

View data and insights about how our partners are expanding access and making an impact.

www.ncmapartners.org

Interested in becoming a Partner in Hope?

Contact Rebecca Galloway at rgalloway@medassist.org

Q1 IMPACT SUMMARY | **GRANTS**

NC MedAssist extends heartfelt thanks to our first-quarter grant partners for their generous support in helping us provide life-saving medication access to uninsured and under-resourced North Carolinians.

Mecklenburg County | \$600,000

For more than 20 years, Mecklenburg County has sustained NC MedAssist's Free Pharmacy Program, ensuring local residents can access their essential prescriptions at no cost.

North Carolina Office of Rural Health | \$400,000

Funding through the NC General Assembly, administered by the Office of Rural Health, supports NC MedAssist's statewide Free Pharmacy Program. This investment helps us reach patients across North Carolina, particularly those living in rural areas and pharmacy deserts where access to care is limited.

Triangle North Healthcare Foundation | \$50,000

A valued partner for more than a decade, Triangle North Healthcare Foundation continues to invest in medication access and health equity across Franklin, Granville, Vance, and Warren counties.

NC FIELD | \$40,000

Our newest partner, NC FIELD, joins us in expanding medication access and outreach for underserved rural workers. NC MedAssist will bring its Mobile Free Pharmacy to their community annually over the next four years. Based in Kinston, NC FIELD supports rural communities by ensuring underserved residents have access to food, healthcare, and other resources



Q1 HIGHLIGHTS



NCMA attends Spruce Pine health and resources fair in September

Toe River Project Access hosted their third annual Health and Resources Fall Festival in Spruce Pine on September 12. Staff from the NCMA Partner Relations, Outreach, and OTC Program teams distributed 300 medication care packages including digestive, pain, allergy, and cold medicines, vitamins, eye drops, handwarmers and more to attendees.

(left to right) Community Outreach Manager Sandy Torres, Manager of Partner Relations Danny Szemple, OTC Program Director Janice Terry-Kidd, and volunteer Daniel Kidd.

Project Delivering Hope events reach veterans and homeless populations in Western NC

Targeting underserved communities in Western NC in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the NCMA Outreach Team held two events in July to bring OTC medicines to Buncombe County and Jackson/Swain County. Between the two events, 432 medication care packages including anti-fungal and antibiotic ointment, sunscreen, vitamin C, first-aid essentials, pain medicine and more.

Partner in Hope renewals off to a strong start, generics-only enrollment option lowers barriers and simplified referral process

NC MedAssist has successfully launched its FY2026 Partner in Hope agreements, with nearly all partners renewing. Two organizations opted not to re-sign due to low patient volume but will continue referring clients as needed.

The renewal process also sparked productive re-engagement with five partners who are now retrained and ready to refer patients again. A key topic in these conversations was NC MedAssist's new generics-only enrollment option, which partners praised for lowering barriers to access and simplifying referrals — further strengthening collaboration and expanding medication access across North Carolina.

Q1 HIGHLIGHTS

FY26 Strategic Plan Reveal brings together stakeholders for Year 2 progress updates and action items for Year 3



**Click the image to view
the FY2026 Strategic
Plan slide deck**



Q1 HIGHLIGHTS

NCMA partners with local organizations to launch Wellness Without Walls, street psychiatry pilot program in Charlotte

We're proud to partner in Wellness Without Walls, a groundbreaking street psychiatry pilot that's bringing mental health care directly to our unsheltered neighbors in Mecklenburg County.

Through this collaboration, **NC MedAssist** is ensuring that patients seen through the program have access to the medications they need to support recovery and stability.

By meeting people where they are, this initiative helps remove barriers to care, reduce ER visits, and create pathways to better health and housing.

Wellness Without Walls is powered by community collaboration:



Roof Above and **Hearts For The Invisible** are leading street outreach. **Atrium Health** is providing psychiatrists and nurses in the community, funded by **Alliance Health**.

United Way of Greater Charlotte led the development of the pilot by bringing together community voices and experts to design an innovative program aimed at driving systems-level change.

The program is supported by generous funding from **SteelFab**, **Duke Energy**, **The Merancas Foundation**, and **Molina Healthcare**.

We're honored to be part of a program that embodies what's possible when our community comes together to care for one another.

Learn more about this innovative effort in [The Charlotte Observer](#).

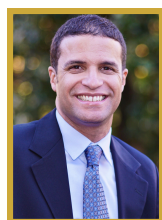
LOOKING AHEAD

Panelists announced for *the Conversation*

Bracing for Change: The Future of Healthcare Access in NC



Senator Jim Burgin
North Carolina
General Assembly
12th Senate District



Ivan Canada
President & CEO
North Carolina Center
for Nonprofits



Lynne Fiscus, MD, MPH
Chief Statewide
Clinical & Academic
Administrative Officer
UNC Health



Ben Money, MPH
SVP, Population Health
National Association of
Community Health Centers

North Carolina's healthcare system is rapidly changing, driven by shifting public policy. What is the real impact, and how do we ensure our vulnerable neighbors do not fall through the cracks?

Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina, *the Conversation* brings together a panel of experts to discuss this critical topic impacting North Carolinians.

You're invited to join in an engaging forum where you'll have the opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and shape the dialogue.

Learn more and register at www.medassist.org/theconversation

presented by:

 **North Carolina**

November 12, 2025

The Friday Conference Center
100 Friday Center Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

5:30 PM
Panel Discussion/Q&A (no cost)

7:00 PM
Private Reception (ticket required)

sponsored by:



National Pharmacy Week (October 19 - October 25)

National Pharmacy Week acknowledges the invaluable contributions pharmacists and technicians make to patient care in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare settings.

Pictured: NCMA Pharmacy Technician Matt Morgenroth dispenses medication for a patient



FY26 COMMITTEES

NC MedAssist’s Board of Directors provides leadership and oversight to ensure the organization remains true to its mission and operates with integrity, transparency, and sound governance. Board members guide long-term strategy, secure resources, and serve as ambassadors in the community — helping to strengthen MedAssist’s reach and impact across North Carolina.

Complementing the board’s leadership, NC MedAssist’s committees bring together skilled volunteers and professionals who lend their expertise to advance specific areas of the organization.

Executive Committee



Chair

Laura Magennis, DNP, RN
Strategic Partnership Coordinator,
Clinical Assistant Professor
UNC Charlotte School of Nursing



Vice Chair

Jay Vora, PharmD, MBA
Pharmacy Director of NC Medicaid
Managed Care Programs
Vaya Health



Treasurer

Jeremy Jacobs, CPA
Senior Manager, Assurance Services
GreerWalker, LLP



Secretary

**Cole Wilson,
PharmD, MBA, DPLA**
Pharmacy Executive



Immediate Past Board Chair

Todd Wells
Vice President, Operations
Neovance

Board Members

Natalie Galdos, JD

Healthcare Associate
McGuire Woods, LLP

Julie Ghurtskaia RN, CCM, MPH

Vice Presidents of Population
Health and Clinical Operations
Carolina Complete Health

Kevin Kendrick

Community Advocate,
FBI (retired)

Kuldip Patel PharmD, FASHP

Senior Associate Chief
Pharmacy Officer
Duke Health

Iris Phillips

President & CEO
Grace Federal Solutions

Ryan Smith, CPA

Partner, Healthcare
Practice Leader
Capin Crouse, LLC

FY26 COMMITTEES

Development Committee



Chair

Kuldip Patel, PharmD, FASHP

Senior Associate Chief
Pharmacy Officer
Duke Health



Andrea Reed PharmD, MBA, BCPS, CPEL, DPLA

Vice President, Pharmacy
Novant Health



Misty McMillan, MA

Executive Director
Scotland Memorial Foundation



Pam Rogers

Senior Program Manager,
Corporate Relations
NCHA Strategic Partners



Kristine Neal, APR, MPA

Assistant Vice President,
Communications
Duke University Health System



Matt Wolf, PharmD, MBA

Partner
Frazier Health Partners

Human Resources Committee



Chair

Linda Hunter, PHR

HR Consultant
Catapult



Tara McAlister SHRM-CP, RCC

Director of Operations
Consultant & HR Strategist
Emerald Financial Group



Natalie Galdos, JD

Healthcare Associate
McGuireWoods, LLP



Iris Phillips

CEO/Founder
Grace Federal Solutions



Julie Ghurtskaia RN, CCM, MPH

Vice President Population Health
Carolina Complete Health



Joslin Rainey

MSL, MHRBP
MSL Senior Director, HRBP
TIAA

FY26 COMMITTEES

Pharmacy Operations Committee



Chair

Jaelyn Jones Bivens
PharmD, RPh

Associate Director, Clinical Science Liaison
Pliant Therapeutics



Jay Vora, PharmD, MBA

Pharmacy Director of NC Medicaid
Managed Care Programs
Vaya Health



Kate Naper, PharmD, MPH

Clinical Manager, Outpatient Pharmacy
& Transitions of Care Residency Program
Director, PGY1 Community Pharmacy
UNC Hospitals



Tim Weber

Vice President, Pharmacy
Enablement & Performance
Cencora



Dramona Page, PharmD

Patient Advocate
Provider Ally



Cole Wilson
PharmD, MBA, DPLA

Pharmacy Executive



Jerry Rebo
PharmD, MBA, BCPS,
BCCCP, DPLA

Director, Pharmacy Value & Outcomes
Novant Health

Finance Committee



Chair

Jeremy Jacobs, CPA

Senior Manager, Assurance Services
GreerWalker, LLP



Ryan Smith, CPA

Partner, Healthcare
Practice Leader
CapinCrouse LLP



Jay Vora, PharmD, MBA

Pharmacy Director of NC Medicaid
Managed Care Programs
Vaya Health

Q1 SNAPSHOTS



NCMA brought its Mobile Free Pharmacy to Montgomery county for the first time on September 5. Sponsored by the Troy/Montgomery Senior Center, the event brought together several organizations to serve the community, including SHIIP/SMP, Montgomery County Partnership for Children, Montgomery Community College Nursing Program, Sheriff's Department and the Department of Health. The event served 833 individuals/families.



CEO Brenda Vass and Chief Program Officer Nicole Stanfield pose with Mecklenburg County Manager Michael Bryant following a discussion with community partners on the topic of evolving federal legislation impacting safety net organizations.



Director of Marketing & Communications Derek Page attended a storytelling workshop lead by National Geographic Explorers, presented by the Principal Foundation.



Sponsored by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Mobile Free Pharmacy served 332 residents of Jackson/Swain County at an event in Hurrah's Cherokee Casino Resort on July 29.



Chief Program Officer Nicole Stanfield and Director of Mobile Free Pharmacy Program Lisa Szabo attended the Mobile Health Leadership Summit in Greensboro, where they met former NC Secretary of Health and Human Services and 20th Director of the CDC, Dr. Mandy Cohen.



CEO Brenda Vass and Chief Program Officer Nicole Stanfield attended the NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Leadership Series where they connected with clinic partners and colleagues across the state. Brenda Vass also served on a panel to discuss board development.