

# NEW HANOVER COUNTY

## Healing Place of New Hanover County

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## HEALING PLACE OF NEW HANOVER COUNTY



New Hanover County is constructing The Healing Place of New Hanover County, a peer-led residential drug and alcohol recovery facility, that will be located on Medical Center Drive. Construction began in early 2021 and it is tentatively scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2022.

The Healing Place will be based on a recovery model that originated at The Healing Place of Louisville, Kentucky, and will offer 100 beds to men and 100 beds to women seeking treatment for addiction. It will be the only peer-led residential recovery program in Southeastern North Carolina to provide treatment to both men and women at no cost to the individual.

Learn more about this recovery model and the need in our region on Trillium Health Resources [website here](#). Trillium is the local specialty care manager (LME/MCO) that manages mental health services in eastern North Carolina and has partnered with the county on this facility.

### Background & Timeline

- 2015: Trillium Health Resources proposed a treatment model to address area alcohol and opioid challenges.
- 2016: a report identified Wilmington as a top city in America for opioid abuse.
- 2018: the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners adopted the county's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan with a key priority to prevent and reduce opioid abuse.
- 2018: Trillium transferred an 8.71 acre tract on Medical Center Drive to New Hanover County for a treatment facility and Commissioners approved moving forward with a 100-bed men's Healing Place facility.

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<https://www.nhcgov.com/healing-place/>

- 2019: a special use permit from the City of Wilmington was obtained for the site and Commissioners approved expanding the scope of the Healing Place facility to include a 100-bed facility for women, in addition to the already-approved 100 beds for men.
- 2020: Trillium Health Resources determined that the facility should be operated by The Healing Place out of Louisville, KY; and in August 2020, Commissioners approved The Healing Place out of Louisville, KY as the facility operator.
- December 2020: Commissioners made final approvals for the facility, including the preliminary guaranteed maximum price, construction manager at risk, design contract, and overall project budget.
- Early 2021: Groundbreaking was held in January and construction began in February.
- August 2022: *Tentative* final completion of the facility, with the facility's opening expected in October or shortly thereafter.

## Construction & Operations

The Healing Place of New Hanover County will be a 200-bed treatment facility, located on Medical Center Drive, that will consist of five buildings: Administration and Education, Dining and Shelter, Men's Residential, Women's Residential, and Detox. [The site design plan can be viewed here.](#)

[Construction of The Healing Place](#) is being funded as a capital project by New Hanover County, through loan proceeds and in compliance with its debt policy. The total project budget is \$24,034,315, and the county will use, in part, its contribution to Trillium to service the annual debt for construction.

Once construction is complete, New Hanover County will own the buildings and be responsible for long-term maintenance. The Healing Place of Louisville, KY will establish a new 501(c)3 that will then fully manage and operate the facility, including all operating costs.

New Hanover County will also provide funding for 50 beds each year (25 for men, 25 for women) as part of the county's budget.



## Healing Place Model

<https://www.nhcgov.com/healing-place/>

More than 25,000 adults in eastern North Carolina are in need of drug or alcohol treatment, but are uninsured or untreated. Currently, there are no long-term residential substance-use facilities in our region to serve them, but [The Healing Place is going to help fill that gap.](#)

This new treatment facility will incorporate principals from [The Healing Place](#) based in Kentucky, and provide underserved adults who live with alcohol and other drug addictions with a no-cost program to help restore them to a healthy life. The Healing Place will provide an overnight emergency shelter, non-medical detoxification, and a long-term, 12-step based residential peer-run recovery program.

The Healing Place will cost less than \$35 per day, per resident to operate (at no charge to the individual), which is much lower than the cost of an emergency room visit or incarceration.

National rates of recovery vary from 30-50%, but graduates from The Healing Place program maintain a recovery rate of 70% one year after completion – making it more effective than the national average at helping people to recovery.

Learn more about this long-term recovery model on [Trillium's website.](#)