

## Franklin County, NC

The testimonial below is from the team leader of the Franklin County SYNC Team. Franklin County participated in SYNC in 2023.

Bringing the SYNC project to Franklin County, North Carolina has helped our community take a more holistic approach in addressing violence prevention. Many times when addressing the social ills of a community there tends to be a focus on the individual and we rarely address the relational, community, and societal factors that impact violence perpetration. This project helped Franklin County human service providers fully grasp the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the environmental factors that impact wellness in communities. The causal loop diagram (CLD) has been incorporated into all of our work efforts as we advocate for youth and families in Franklin County. Our team is using all that we have learned through the SYNC project to develop programming that builds protective factors that will reduce and prevent ACEs and violence and establish programs that will help families have the necessary resources that they need to thrive. Wealth is Health and SYNC taught us how to bring wealth to our community by addressing the many factors that cause ACEs. It gave us real hope that we as a core group can make a difference in our community.

Monica Kearney, MSW Executive Director Safe Space, Inc.