

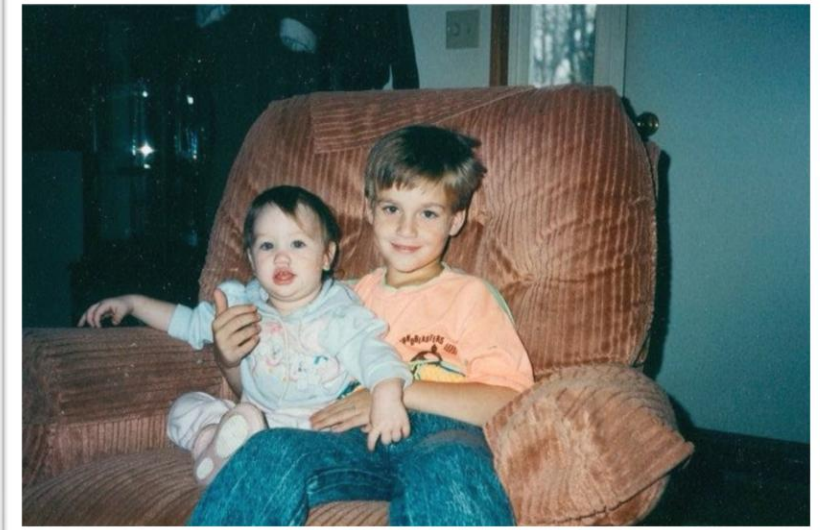
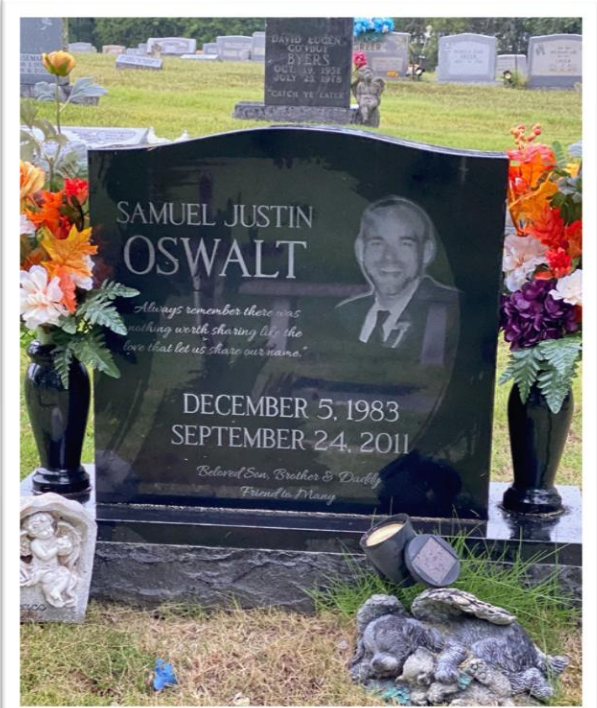
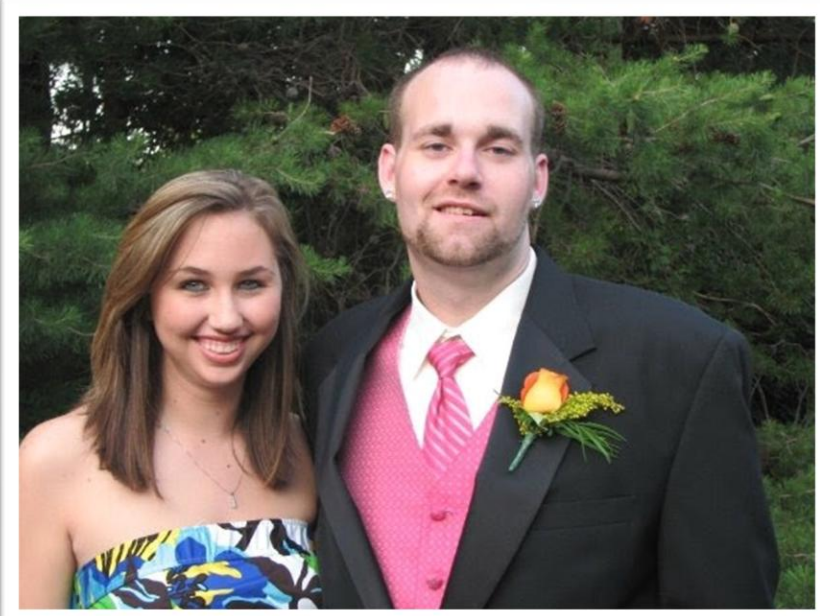
# Investing with a Purpose: A Roadmap for Using Opioid Settlement Funds to Become a Recovery Ready Community

Lauren Carr, Opioid Settlement Advisor, KACo

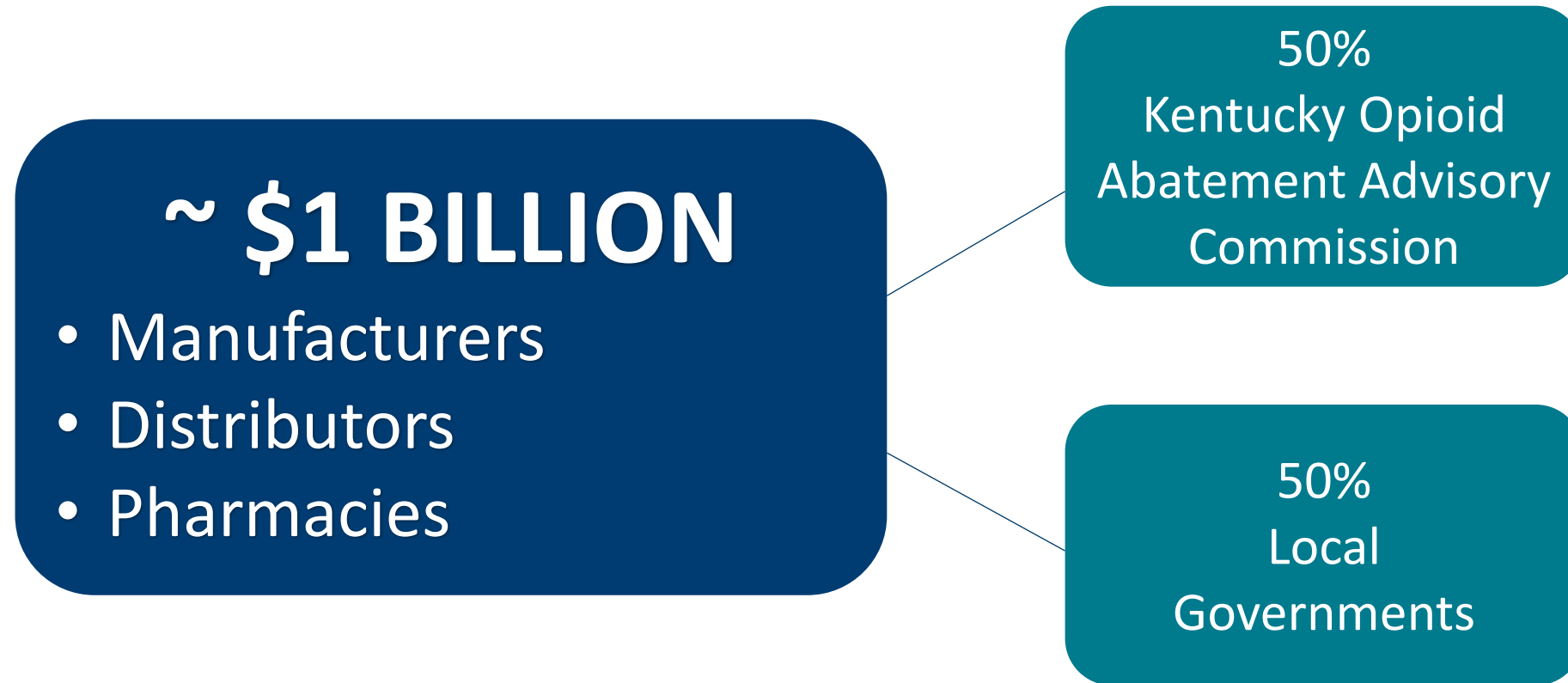
Dallas Hurley, Sr. Director of Policy and Advocacy, Recovery Ready Communities, Volunteers of America Mid-States

August 14, 2025

# Lauren's story



# Kentucky settlement overview



Funds must be used in accordance with KRS 15.291 (5) Exhibit E

# Opioid Remediation



- Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures designed to
- (1) address the misuse or **disordered use** of opioid products,
- (2) treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or
- (3) mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.



Settlement agreement quick links

[Exhibit E](#)

[KRS 15.291](#)

# Reporting requirements



## Impact reporting update July 2025

### 1. General Information:

- County or municipality name
- Fiscal year
- Contact details for the report preparer

### 2. Financial Overview:

- Total settlement funds received to date
- Beginning & ending balances, interest
- Annual disbursements with a recipient breakdown

### 3. Recipient & Impact Reporting:

- **Process measures:** Quantity of services provided (e.g., number of participants)
- **Quality measures:** Indicators of service quality (e.g., client satisfaction)
- **Outcome measures:** Impact on clients (e.g., recovery progress)



**Reporting portal goes live July 1, 2025**  
**Reporting deadline is August 31, 2025**



## Varied Approaches:

- Some local governments fund projects directly within their municipality.
- Others distribute funds through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- Some have not allocated funds yet due to uncertainty on how to proceed.

# Allowable uses of Opioid Settlement Funds



## Core strategies:

- **Naloxone** or other opioid overdose reversal drugs
- **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) / MAT**
- Services for **pregnant women and parents**
- Expanding treatment for **neonatal abstinence syndrome**
- Expansion of **warm hand-off programs** and recovery services
- Treatment for **incarcerated populations**
- **Prevention** programs
- Expanding **syringe service** programs
- Evidence-based **data collection** on the effectiveness of abatement strategies

See Exhibit E, the National Opioid Settlement Agreement

# Allowable Uses



**Prevention** - e.g., media campaigns, school- and youth-based programs

**Harm reduction** - e.g., syringe service programs, naloxone distribution,

**Treatment** - e.g., medications for opioid use disorder, telehealth, access to treatment

**Recovery supports** - e.g., supportive housing, wrap-around services

**Leadership/planning/coordination** - training, research

# Counties in Action- Prevention



**UNSHAME**  
KENTUCKY

Substance use disorder can affect anyone.  
Treatment is available at [FindHelpNowKY.org](https://www.findhelpnowky.org)



**MAY 7 NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT FENTANYL IS?**

IT IS A SYNTHETIC, HIGHLY ADDICTIVE OPIOID THAT IS BEING ADDED TO FAKE PILLS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOT TAKE ANY PILLS THAT A DOCTOR DID NOT PRESCRIBE.

**Today is the day to start the conversation**

A photograph of two men sitting on a couch and talking. One man is older with grey hair, and the other is younger with brown hair.

# Counties in Action – Harm Reduction



Introducing .....



Located at:  
The Lee County Health  
Department Annex  
45 Center Street  
Beattyville, KY  
606-216-6483

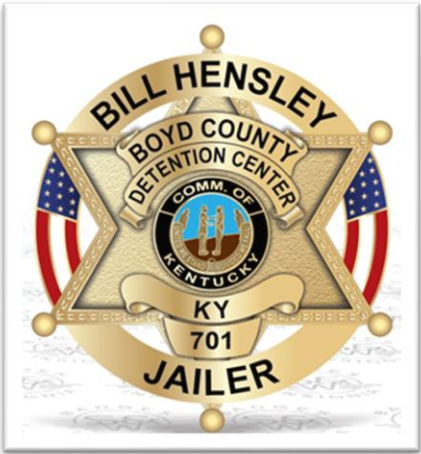


- Recovery Coaching
- Offender Corrections Education
- Emergency Food & Clothing
- Transportation
- Help for Family & Friends
- CR, AA, NA, Relapse Prevention
- SMART Recovery
- Parenting Classes
- Overdose Response
- Casey's Law Advocacy
- Substance Use Treatment
- Sober Living/Transitional Housing
- Employment Readiness
- Leave Behind Program
- New Beginnings Program
- Food Commodities (60+)
- Telehealth- physical & behavioral
- Anger Management

One Stop Resource Center for anybody in **Addiction** and **Recovery!**  
Come See Us!



# Counties in Action – Treatment



# Counties in Action – Recovery Support

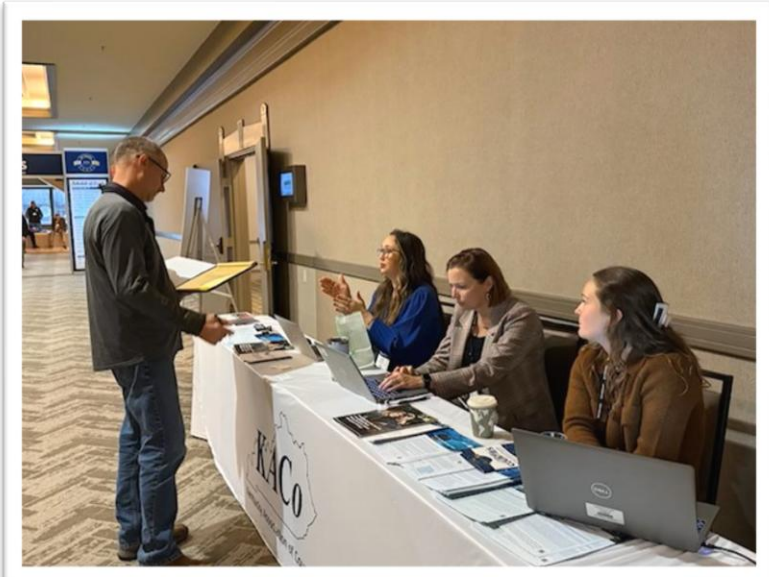


# Leadership Planning and Coordination



- **Steering committee** creation
- Utilization of existing coalitions and task forces as **advisory groups**
- Engagement in **community needs assessments**
- **Strategic planning**
- **Work plan** creation
- Development of **request for proposals** and request for proposal review committees
- **Formalizing processes** to ensure continuity and sustainability

# Counties in Action – Leadership & Planning



# Creating a settlement council



## Voices from impacted communities and opioid abatement experts

- People with lived/living experience, including MOUD recipients
- Public health professionals (e.g., health departments, schools of public health)
- Primary prevention providers (e.g., PCPs, school clinicians)
- Treatment providers serving underserved populations
- Recovery and social service groups (e.g., Housing First programs)
- Ensure council diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, orientation, professional background and lived experience.



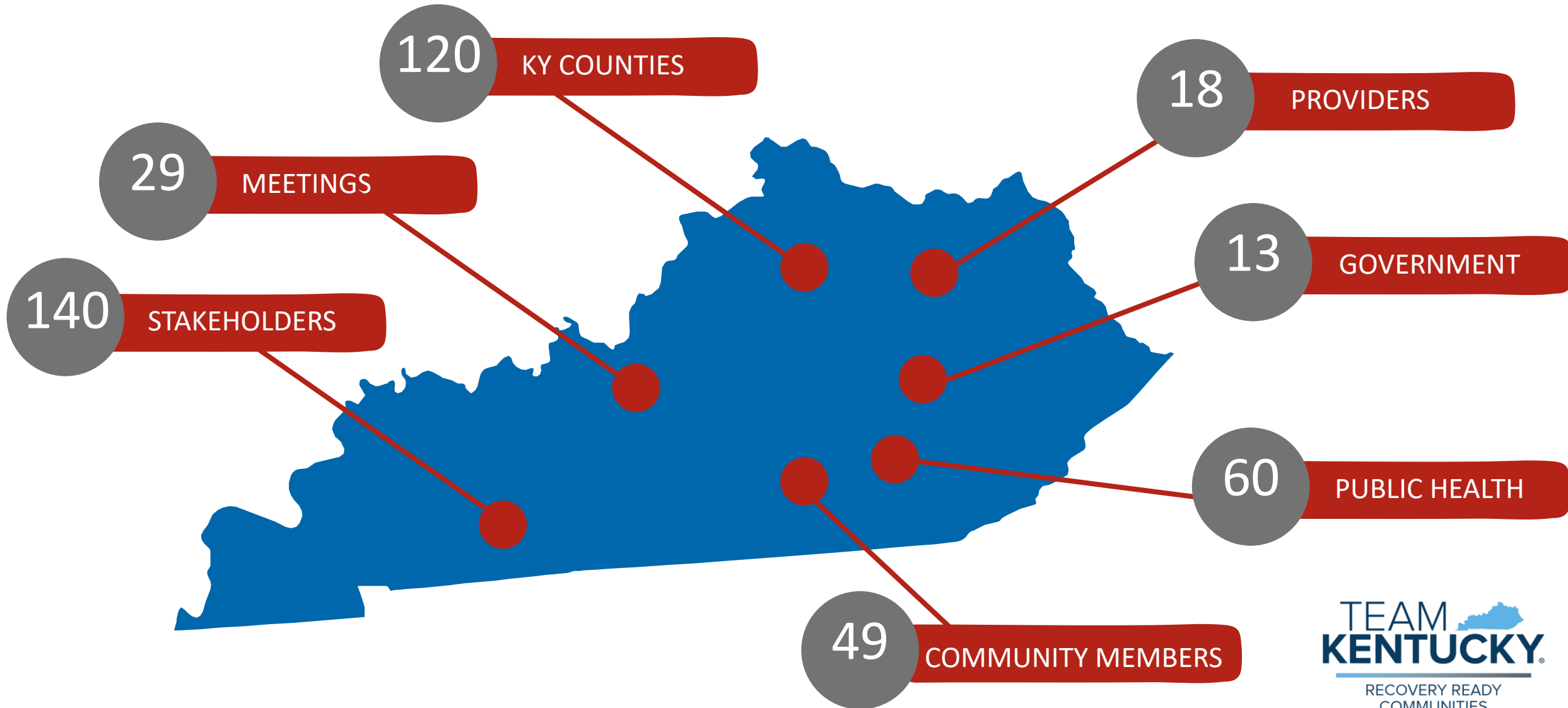
# Certification Program Origins

- In 2021, Governor Beshear signed Rep. Adam Bowling's HB 7 into law.
- HB 7 established the Recovery Ready Communities Advisory Council (RRCAC) and tasked the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (KYODCP) with administrative support of the Advisory Council.
- HB 7 also required the Advisory Council to establish the Recovery Ready Communities Certification Program to “provide a quality measure of a city or county’s substance use disorder recovery programs to assure citizens and businesses that a city or county is committed to ensuring the availability of high-quality recovery programs in its community.”

# Recovery Ready Communities Certification Program Development

- The RRCAC invited clinicians, recovery advocates, treatment providers, people with lived experience, law enforcement, and public health experts to provide members with a overview of the Commonwealth's approach to substance use disorder (SUD) at the time.
- Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA) was selected by the RRCAC and KYODCP to assist in the development of the certification program including the evaluation criteria, scoring, and population categories.
- The VOA RRC team used the RRCAC's collection of information and convened several additional stakeholder meetings across the Commonwealth to develop the criteria which was approved by the RRCAC in January 2023.
- The certification program officially launched in February of 2023.

# Stakeholder Engagement



# Evaluation Criteria Design

- The goal was to craft a set of evaluation criteria designed to mirror KYODCP's proven cross-agency statewide approach to addressing SUD at the municipal, county, and regional levels.
- The VOA RRC Team relied heavily on the expertise of the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) to craft a three-part matrix that examines a community's SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.
- The goal of participation in the certification program is to empower cities, counties, and regions to establish or strengthen their local recovery-oriented systems of care.
- Programs and interventions promoted by the certification program criteria are designed to increase recovery capital for individuals, families, and communities.

# Certification Process

- Community recruitment and education campaign
- Formation of Community Application Team
- Community application
- VOA RRC Team site visit
- VOA RRC Team certification recommendation to advisory council
- Advisory council certification decision
- Additional technical assistance to unsuccessful applicants

# Certification Status

- Two certified regions:
  - NKY Region consisting of Boone, Kenton, Campbell, and Grant County
  - Marion and Washington County
- Nineteen independently certified counties: Boyle, Woodford, Perry, Scott, Hardin, McCracken, Breathitt, Jessamine, Lee, Nelson, Daviess, Fayette, Pulaski, Calloway, Knott, Lawrence, Floyd, Bell, and LaRue.
- Total Kentucky residents living in certified counties: 1,565,760 (2024 US Census Estimate)
- Counties with open certification applications: Allen, Clark, Clay, Estill, Franklin, Henderson, Jefferson, Johnson, Letcher, Lewis, Madison, Owsley, Pike, Taylor, and Warren County.
- One new open regional application:
  - NEKY Region consisting of Boyd, Carter, and Greenup County

# Perfect Opportunity

- Counties and cities have started to spend direct payment of opioid abatement settlement funds
- Communities should use the RRC evaluation criteria to audit their current recovery-oriented system of care allowing them to develop a strategic plan to maximize the return on investment of the abatement funds
- The Administrative Office of the Courts has implemented the behavioral health conditional dismissal program established under [SB 90](#) from the 2022 General Assembly
- The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission has started to award grants from settlement funds earmarked for the state

# Trends

- Active local Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Boards and UNITE Coalitions increase interagency cooperation and effectiveness of a community's SUD response
- Many communities are focusing on evidence-based prevention curriculum in schools and complementing those efforts with community-based interventions
- Public Health Departments across the Commonwealth are stepping up to do amazing prevention and outreach work among at-risk populations
- Certified peer support specialists are emerging as potent force multipliers for recovery ecosystems
- Primary care practices and hospital systems are stepping up to provide both linkages to treatment and access to MOUD in non-stigmatizing settings

# Trends Continued

- Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and situation tables are a great way to combine public health and safety professionals into a highly effective multidisciplinary team that can provide targeted interventions to community “hot spots”
- Hospital emergency departments can be a critical intervention point for at-risk populations
- Recovery community organizations and recovery community centers are emerging as some of the most effective recovery supports acting as hubs for effective delivery of recovery resources to those who need them most
- The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and local community chambers are stepping up to create pool of reliable fair chance employers which is essential to creating an effective recovery ecosystem

# Common Issues Across Communities

- Communities across the Commonwealth are struggling with affordable housing capacity in general and especially when it comes to quality recovery housing capacity
- Transportation is a significant barrier across the Commonwealth
- Many jails and detention centers face physical design hurdles to providing traditional evidence-based SUD treatment curriculum and models

## Opioid Settlement Resource Library

A white question mark is centered on a white rectangular card that is slightly tilted. The card is set against a dark purple background.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

A photograph of the Kentucky State Capitol building, showing its grand architecture and a large dome, viewed from a distance down a wide walkway.

**Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission**

A photograph of a statue of Lady Justice, the personification of the goddess of justice, holding a pair of scales.

**Settlement Agreements and Exhibits**

A photograph of a laptop computer on a desk. The screen displays the word "WEBINAR" in a bold, sans-serif font. A hand is visible in the foreground, holding a white coffee cup.

**Archived Trainings and Recordings**

A photograph of two people in a meeting. They are holding up several white sticky notes, likely discussing a project or plan.

**Tools, Templates and Planning**

A photograph showing several hands reaching out towards the center of the frame, symbolizing support, collaboration, or resources.

**Approved Uses and Resources**

# KACo Opioid Solutions Learning Opportunities



Join KACo staff along with local, state and national experts each month as we discuss and highlight how counties are using their opioid settlement funds in innovative, effective and sustainable ways. Topics will include youth prevention, peer support, access to treatment, quick response teams, and more.



# Opioid Symposium 2025



The 2025 Kentucky Opioid Symposium brings together people from across the Commonwealth for two days of learning, collaboration, strategizing and networking to strengthen efforts to combat opioid use.





# Building Bridges to Community Wellness

NOVEMBER 10 & 11



Which track speaks to you?

**OFFERING:**

- CEUs
- CEs
- DLGs

**Advocacy in Action**

**Personal Wellness**

**Recovery Community Practices**

**Systemic Change & Innovation**



Eastern Kentucky University  
Keen Johnson Building

[recoverysummit.org](https://recoverysummit.org)



# Contact Information

## Dallas Hurley

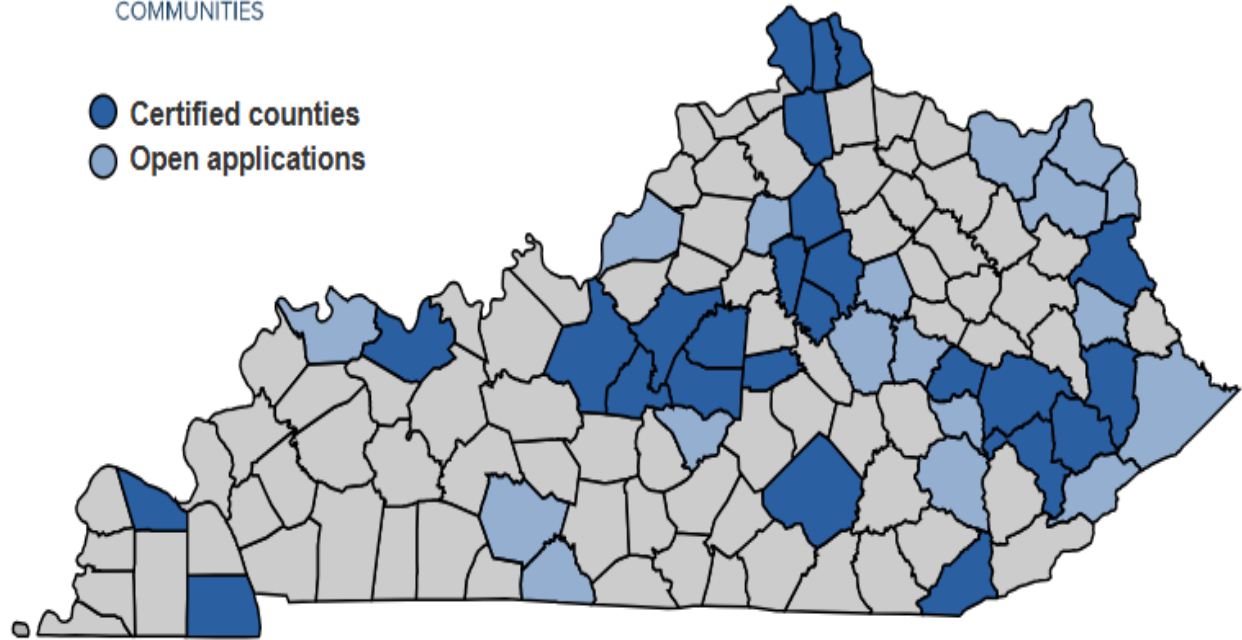
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Volunteers of America Mid-States

2820 West Broadway, Suite 600  
Louisville, KY 40211  
Office: 502.625.5950  
[dallash@voamid.org](mailto:dallash@voamid.org)

Recovery Ready Communities  
[www.rrcky.org](http://www.rrcky.org)  
X(Twitter): @RRCKentucky  
[info@rrcky.org](mailto:info@rrcky.org)



- Certified counties
- Open applications





## Lauren Carr

KACo Opioid Settlement Advisor

[lauren.carr@kaco.org](mailto:lauren.carr@kaco.org)

502-343-9944