

The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse



Behavioral Health Division

Comprehensive Community Plan

County: Benton County

LCC Name: Coalition for a Drug Free Benton County

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County Commissioners: Phil McGinnis / Shawn Leuck / John P. Gick

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City: Fowler, IN

Zip Code: 47944

Vision Statement

To improve the quality of life of our youth, all individuals and the families within Benton County Community as a whole.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Coalition for a Drug Free Benton County is to provide a forum for exchange of information related to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in Benton County. The Coalition comes together with the common goal of reducing the incidence, prevalence, costs and consequences of alcohol and other drug use and abuse. Success of meeting these goals will improve the quality of life in individuals, families and the Benton County Community as a whole.

[illegible]

LCC Meeting Schedule:

Please provide the months the LCC meets throughout the year:

January 21st, 2025
March 18th, 2025
May 20th, 2025
June 17th, 2025
August 19th, 2025
October 21st, 2025
November 18th, 2025
January 21st, 2026

II. Community Needs Assessment

The first step in developing an effective substance use and misuse reduction plan is to assess your community. A community assessment tells you about your community's readiness to implement prevention, treatment, and justice-related programs to address substance use and misuse. An assessment also provides an overview of the risk and protective factors present in the community, helping your coalition plan more effectively.

Community Profile

County Name
Benton County
County Population
8719 – from 2020 census
Schools in the community – 6
Benton Central Jr.-Sr High school, Prairie Crossing Elementary, Otterbein Elementary, Scared Heart, Tri-County School and South Newton High School,
Medical care providers in the community (hospitals, health care centers, medical centers/clinics, etc.)
Hospital – 0 Health Care Centers – 1 Medical centers / clinics – 2 County Nurse - 1

<p>Mental health care providers in the community (hospitals with psychiatric/behavioral health units, mental health clinics, private/public providers, etc.)</p> <p>Valley Oaks Everside Clinic – BC Health & Wellness (Private & Public) IU Arnett (Otterbein) County Nurse</p>
<p>Service agencies/organizations</p> <p>Valley Oaks Everside Clinic – formerly known as BC Health and Wellness (Private & Public)</p>
<p>Local media outlets that reach the community</p> <p>Benton Review Social Media – Facebook</p>
<p>What are the substances that are most problematic in your community?</p> <p>For the last couple of year the biggest concern in Benton County is Meth and as of today it remains to as our most problematic issue. While others are still also being seen such as; Heroin, Marijuana, and Alcohol. The school is struggling with vape pens and with vaping pens with marijuana.</p>
<p>List all substance use/misuse services/activities/programs presently taking place in the community</p> <p>Currently there are two Celebrate Recovery programs, one is jail based and the other is county based. Valley Oaks center is seeing/accepting clients for a variety of treatments. Borrowed Time (owned and operated by Dr. Darcy Lash) Lisa Werth is a member of the Coalition and is affiliated with CallaCCH. Jen Bushore-Barry can assist with a variety of treatments and other services to our community. Morgan Stevens has been selected to oversee reopening the Benton County chapter of Safe Place.</p>

Community Risk and Protective Factors

Use the list of risk and protective factors to identify those present in your community. Identify the resources/assets and limitations/gaps that exist in your community related to each. The lists are not all-inclusive and others may apply.

Risk Factors Examples: trauma and toxic stressors; poverty violence; neighborhood characteristics; low neighborhood attachment; community disorganization; community norms and laws favorable toward drug use, firearms, and crime; availability of alcohol and other drugs; weak family relationships; family substance use; peer substance use; mental health problems; families moving frequently from home to home; limited prevention and recovery resources.

Protective Factors Examples: strong family relationships; neighborhood economic viability; low childhood stress; access to health care; access to mental health care; community-based interventions; restricted access to alcohol and other drugs including restrictive laws and excise taxes; safe, supportive, and connected neighborhoods; meaningful youth engagement opportunities; local policies and practices that support healthy norms and child-youth programs; positive connection to adults.¹

Risk Factors	Resources/Assets	Limitations/Gaps
1. Low Income Households	1. Food Pantries 2. WIC / Benton County Food Co-Op 3. Family & Children Services 4. Township trustees and churches when funding is available	1. Transportation 2. Community awareness 3. Skill sets to maintain or obtain employment
2. Family substance abuse in both youth and adults	1. Valley Oaks 2. Celebrate Recovery 3. Borrowed Time 4. North Node Wellness Inc 5. CallaCCH	1. Transportation 2. Community awareness 3. Family support / Peer pressure

¹Risk and protective factors extracted from IUPUI Center for Health Policy Community Conditions Favorable for Substance Use, April 2018.

3. Impaired Drivers	1. Local Law enforcement	1. Rural area 2. Lack of activities for youth outside of school settings 3. Mental Health
Protective Factors	Resources/Assets	Limitations/Gaps
1. Community support	1. Benton County has a very strong community and come together when there is a crisis	1. Willingness to accept there are problems within the community. 2. Support to get help and maintain a clean lifestyle
3. We Tip Hotline	1. Benton County Sheriff just secured a grant for a We Tip Hotline	1. Children/Adults are scared to come forward and ask for help. 2. People do not realize what is happening is not ok because it is their norm.
3. Law Enforcement	1. The Local Law Enforcement works diligently to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all community members	1. Small Police forces and lack of funding to retain the officers we have

III. Making A Community Action Plan

Now that you have completed a community assessment and have identified the risk and protective factors that exist, you can develop a plan of action. The Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is a systematic and community-driven gathering, analysis, and reporting of community-level indicators for the purpose of identifying and addressing local substance use problems.

Step 1: Create problem statements, and ensure problems statements are in line with statutory requirements

Step 2: Ensure your problem statements are evidence-informed, then prioritize

Step 3: Brainstorm what can be done about each

Step 4: Prioritize your list, and develop SMART goal statements for each

Step 5: List the steps to achieve each goal

Step 1: Create + Categorize Problem Statements

Create problem statements as they relate to each of the identified risk factors.

Risk Factors	Problem Statement(s)
1. Low Income	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Benton County Adults are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances1. The impaired driving rate is to high2. Benton County Youth are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances
2. Family substance abuse – both youth and adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Benton County Adults are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances3. The impaired driving rate is to high4. Benton County Youth are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances
3. Impaired drivers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Benton County Adults are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances2. The impaired driving rate is to high3. Benton County Youth are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances

Step 2: Evidence-Informed Problem Statements

Identify your top three problem statements using local or state data. Ensure that there is a problem statement for each co-equal funding category (e.g., prevention/education; intervention/treatment; and criminal justice services and activities).

	Data That Establishes Problem	Data Source
1. Benton County Youth are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances	Benton Community Schools reports a total of 5 expulsions. There were 47 suspensions (32 were for alcohol or vaping) and there were 0 drug/pill (THC) related situations	Benton Community School Resource officer,
2. Benton County Adults are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances	In 2024 there 234 drug screens administered by various departments within Benton County with a 39% revealing a positive result. Tests revealed Cannabis, Cocaine, Benz, Amphetamine/Meth, Opiate and diluted samples	Benton County Probation, Court, and Law Enforcement reports
3. The impaired driving rate in Benton County is too high	Reports from probation show open cases for; Operating vehicle with BAC .15 or more, OWI endangering with prior, PI, Operating with a BAC .08 or greater. The various police departments report arrests for; OWI (A Misdemeanor Alcohol), OWI (D Felony prior) and OWI (A Misdemeanor Controlled Substance)	Court and Law Enforcement reports

Step 3: Brainstorm

Consider the resources/assets and limitations/gaps that were identified for each risk factor, and list what actions can be taken for each identified problem statement.

Problem Statements	What can be done (action)?
1. Benton County Youth are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote and support alternative activities and provide funding.2. Provide funding for education/prevention programs, treatment and intervention programs3. Assist law enforcement with funding to they are able to provide interdiction services in the county

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote community awareness and encourage them to seek help Promote the new anonymous We Tip Hotline use
2. Benton County Adults are using alcohol, misusing prescription drugs, synthetic and illicit controlled substances	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote community awareness through materials and services offered in the area Promote alternative activities and provide funding Provide funding for education/prevention programs, treatment and intervention programs. Assist law enforcement with funding so they are able to provide interdiction services within the county Promote the new anonymous We Tip Hotline use
3. The impaired driving rate in Benton County is too high	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness overall – materials stating the hazards of impaired driving through multiple sources Provide educational tools to community members through local establishments that serve/sell alcohol Provide law enforcement funding for additional equipment and tools so officers can focus on impaired drivers Promote the new anonymous We Tip Hotline use

Step 4: Develop SMART Goal Statements

For each problem statement, prioritize your list of what can be done. Choose your top two actions for each. Then, develop goal statements that demonstrate what change you hope to achieve and by when you hope to achieve it.

Problem Statement #1
Goal 1 – The goal is to help the community reduce the amount of alcohol and illicit drug use cases, especially those involving youth. We will continue to encourage them to take a stand against their peers utilizing any avenue that they are comfortable with.
Goal 2 – The various departments will continue to report annually the number of cases per calendar year that they have on their case load involving alcohol, prescription, synthetic and illicit drug use so we can see if our efforts are improving the statistics or not. If they do not reflect a decrease the LCC will discuss what else can and should be done.
Problem Statement #2
Goal 1 – Show reduced numbers of adults misusing alcohol, prescription, synthetic and illicit controlled substances by comparing yearly numbers of positive drug screens each year from various departments reports. This goal is not changed because it continues to be one of our biggest areas for improvement.
Goal 2 – Continue to promote community awareness by providing materials regarding the hazards of alcohol, prescription, synthetic drug misuse and other illicit controlled substances and provide funding to law enforcement and treatment facilities which will be done on an annual basis through various reporting.
Problem Statement #3
Goal 1 – Lower the impaired drivers in Benton County each year with convictions.
Goal 2 – Continue to provide funding to law enforcement to assist with convictions of impaired drivers, get reports on the percentage of convictions annually after new equipment and/or training was implemented

Step 5: Plans to Achieve Goals

For each goal, list the steps required to achieve each

Problem Statement #1	Steps
Goal 1 - To lower the amount of alcohol & illicit drug use instances in the County involving youths through statistical reports obtained from the schools, juvenile probation and law enforcement departments. If there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	1. Obtain annual statistics from schools, Valley Oaks, Celebrate Recovery programs, Borrowed Time and Law Enforcement

Goal 2 – The juvenile probation department will continue to report the number of cases per calendar year that they have on their case load involving alcohol, prescription, synthetic and illicit drug use. If there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	1. Provide funding and support to all prevention/education; treatment/intervention and law enforcement/justice areas to provide them with materials, tools necessary
Problem Statement #2	Steps
Goal 1- Show reduced numbers of adults misusing alcohol, prescription, synthetic and illicit controlled substances by comparing yearly numbers of positive drug screens each year. If there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoted community awareness through materials, newspaper and social media articles with statistics 2. Promote the We Tip Hotline 3. Publish more statistical information on social media and other platforms.
Goal 2 – Promote community awareness by providing materials regarding the hazards of alcohol, prescription, synthetic drug misuse and other illicit controlled substances and provide funding to law enforcement and treatment facilities. If there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide funding and support to all prevention/education; treatment/intervention and law enforcement/justice areas to provide them with materials, tools necessary 2. Promote the We Tip Hotline
Problem Statement #3	Steps
Goal 1 - The impaired driving rate in Benton County is too high. If there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoted community awareness through materials, newspaper and social media articles with statistics 2. Promote the We Tip Hotline
Goal 2– Provide funding to law enforcement to assist with convictions of impaired drivers. If	1. Provide funding and support to all prevention/education;

there is no reduction within 1 year, the LCC's goals will be reevaluated	treatment/intervention and law enforcement/justice areas to provide them with materials, tools necessary
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IV. Fund Document

The fund document allows the LCC to provide finances available to the coalition at the beginning of the year. The fund document gauges an LCC's fiscal wellness to empower their implementation of growth within their community. The fund document also ensures LCCs meet the statutory requirement of funding programs within the three categories of (1) Prevention/Education, (2) Treatment/Intervention, and (3) Criminal Justice Services and Activities (IC 5-2-11-5).

Funding Profile		
1	Amount deposited into the County DFC Fund from fees collected last year:	11058.15
2	Amount of unused funds from last year that will roll over into this year:	2909.00
3	Total funds available for programs and administrative costs for this year (Line 1 + Line 2):	\$13,967.15
4	Amount of funds granted last year:	\$12,000.00
Additional Funding Sources (if no money is received, please enter \$0.00)		
A	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):	\$0.00
B	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):	\$0.00
C	Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA):	\$0.00
D	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP):	\$0.00
E	Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH):	\$0.00
F	Indiana Department of Education (DOE):	\$0.00
G	Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA):	\$0.00
H	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA):	\$0.00
I	Local entities:	\$0.00
J	Other: Court fees from Alcohol and Drug Measurers:	13967.15
Categorical Funding Allocations		
Prevention/Education: \$3,655.72	Intervention/Treatment: \$3,655.72	Justice Services: \$3,655.72
Funding allotted to Administrative costs:		
<i>Itemized list of what is being funded</i>		<i>Amount (\$100.00)</i>
Coordinator compensation		\$3,000
Office supplies		\$0.00
Funding Allocations by Goal per Problem Statement:		
Problem Statement #1	Problem Statement #2	Problem Statement #3
Goal 1: \$1,827.86	Goal 1: \$1,827.86	Goal 1: \$1,827.86
Goal 2: \$1,827.86	Goal 2: \$1,827.86	Goal 2: \$1,827.86

