

# **The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse**



*Behavioral Health Division*

## **Comprehensive Community Plan**

County: Whitley

LCC Name: Drug Free Whitley County

LCC Contact: Hunter LaRue

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City: Columbia City, IN 46725

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County Commissioners: Rob Schuman, Chad Banks, Theresa Green

Address: 220 W. Van Buren St.

City: Columbia City, IN

Zip Code: 46725

## **Vision Statement**

What is your Local Coordinating Council's vision statement?

Whitley County Drug Free Indiana will work toward a community free of alcohol and other drug addiction, abuse, misuse, and other related problems.

## **Mission Statement**

What is your Local Coordinating Council's mission statement?

To create a drug-free environment in Whitley County through education in our citizenry, formal assessment of needs, coordination of local and surrounding area services, strategic use of prevention plans, and incorporation of a consistent justice plan.

<b>Membership List</b>					
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Category</b>
1	<b>Bolling, Ciara</b>	<b>Allendale Treatment/Fort Wayne Recovery</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
2	<b>Brooks, Jessica</b>	<b>The Remnant Ministries, Inc</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
3	<b>Christie, Jen</b>	<b>Probation Department</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Justice</b>
4	<b>Ellis, Shawn</b>	<b>Mission 25</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
5	<b>Hodges, Alyssa</b>	<b>JCAP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
6	<b>Jensen-Kelley, Julie</b>	<b>Community Corrections</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Justice</b>
7	<b>LaRue, Hunter</b>	<b>LCC Coordinator</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Administrative</b>
8	<b>Lauber, Mista</b>	<b>Bowen Health</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
9	<b>Motter, Amy</b>	<b>Community Corrections</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Justice</b>
10	<b>Pearce, Marta</b>	<b>Indian Springs Middle School</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Education</b>
11	<b>Persons, Sharon</b>	<b>(Retired) Whitley Co.</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Other</b>
12	<b>Schori, Brittany</b>	<b>Purdue Extension</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Education</b>

13	<b>Valentic, Scott</b>	<b>Churubusco Police Department</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Law Enforcement</b>
14	<b>VanDevender, Mikel</b>	<b>South Whitley Police Department</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Law Enforcement</b>

### **LCC Meeting Schedule:**

Please provide the months the LCC meets throughout the year:

We meet January – June and August – December on the 3rd Thursday at noon. Events are subject to cancellation for weather and other safety precautions. Meetings without a quorum will also be canceled.

### **Community Needs Assessment: Results**

*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
Whitley County
County Population
34,430 (July 1, 2021 Census)
Schools in the community
TROY Alternative School Faith Christian Academy Columbia City High School/Eagle Tech Academy/Eagle Connect

Indian Springs Middle School  
Coesse Elementary School  
Northern Heights Elementary School  
Little Turtle Elementary School  
Mary Raber Elementary School/Mary Raber Montessori  
Churubusco Jr/Sr High School  
Churubusco Elementary School  
Whitko Jr/Sr High School  
South Whitley Elementary School  
Whitko Career Academy

Medical care providers in the community (hospitals, health care centers, medical centers/clinics, etc.)

Parkview Whitley Hospital  
Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic  
A Hope Center  
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile  
Whitley County Health Department / Immunization Clinic  
Bowen Health

Mental health care providers in the community (hospitals with psychiatric/behavioral health units, mental health clinics, private/public providers, etc.)

Bowen Health  
Live Heal Grow Counseling  
Lavon Fletcher

Service agencies/organizations  
Mission25-Recover Engagement Center  
Remnant Ministries  
Easterseals Passages  
AA/NA support groups

Local media outlets that reach the community

IN Whitley County  
The Post & Mail

Coffee News  
KPC Media  
WJHS 91.5 FM  
The Hoot News of Whitley County  
Tribune News

What are the substances that are most problematic in your community?

Alcohol  
Tobacco  
Vape  
Marijuana  
Methamphetamine  
Fentanyl

List all substance use/misuse services/activities/programs presently taking place in the community

Addictions Task Force  
Drug Free Whitley County  
Support Groups (NA, AA, PAL, Celebrate Recovery)  
Remnant Ministries  
Mission25  
JCAP/Re-entry

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

Risk Factors	Resources/Assets	Limitations/Gaps
1. Low income communities within the county	1. Miami Village Community Center 2. Active law enforcement patrol of the area 3. Church involvement	1. No community center for other economically disadvantaged communities 2. Lack of trust with poverty communities and law enforcement 3. High crime offenders living in low-income communities
2. Easy accessibility of drugs and alcohol	1. Strong judicial system 2. Veterans Court 3. Programming at Community Corrections	1. US 30 runs through the county, connecting Fort Wayne and Chicago 2. Lack of Drug Court 3. Limited jail space
3. Strong peer & family influence regarding substance use	1. Faith community 2. The Center for Whitley County Youth 3. Clubs, sports, and other after school activities	1. Lack of safe entertainment in the community 2. High recidivism 3. Generational substance use
Protective Factors	Resources/Assets	Limitations/Gaps
1. Strong faith community	1. Abundance of churches	1. Lack of communication among churches

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

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Youth groups</li> <li>3. Church space to host support groups</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Lack of collaboration and partnerships</li> <li>3. Stigma in the faith community about intervening and providing support to fix substance use problems in the community</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Safe school environment</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programming on substance use prevention</li> <li>2. After school activities</li> <li>3. School resource officers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programming isn't taught enough, or in every grade</li> <li>2. Lack of evidence-based programs</li> <li>3. Ease of sneaking in vapes &amp; other substances</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Perception of drug &amp; alcohol use</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Hard" drugs looked down upon</li> <li>2. Substance use discouraged in the community as a whole</li> <li>3. Most of the population with religious beliefs</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abundance of risk taking behavior with unknown, dangerous drugs, especially among youth and young adults</li> <li>2. Alcohol &amp; vaping not seen as a problem</li> <li>3. Many refuse to acknowledge that there's a problem in the community</li> </ol>

## 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.*

<b>Risk Factors</b>	<b>Problem Statement(s)</b>
1. Low-income communities within the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Financial assistance continues to be a barrier to recovery for those dealing with substance use and mental health problems.</li><li>2. People aren't knowledgeable about community resources</li><li>3. There is only one community center in one economically disadvantaged community</li></ul>
2. Easy accessibility of drugs and alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. There is a high rate of drug and alcohol related criminal activity</li><li>2. US 30 brings a lot of drugs through the county</li><li>3. Substances are readily available through peers and family members</li></ul>
3. Strong peer & family influence regarding substance use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Substance use among youth and adults continues to be a problem in Whitley County</li></ul>

	<p>2. There's high recidivism and generational substance use, leaving many kids without positive role models</p> <p>3. There is a lack of funding and time to teach substance use education at every grade level</p>
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## 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).*

Problem Statements	Data That Establishes Problem	Data Source
1. Financial assistance continues to be a barrier to recovery for those dealing with substance use problems.	Whitley County Superior Court Alcohol and Drug Program reported 110 adults in substance use programming that made less than \$24,999. Of those, 80 were making less than \$10,000. (2024)	Whitley County Superior Court Alcohol and Drug Program
2. There is a high rate of drug and alcohol related criminal activity (This has shown an upward trend since last year)	<p>The Whitley County Prosecutor's Office reported 286 OWI cases in superior and circuit court (2024). An increase from 2023, with 249 OWI cases reported that year.</p> <p>The Whitley County Prosecutor's Office reported 610 drug possession cases in superior and circuit court. (2024). An increase from 2023, where 605 drug possession cases were reported that year.</p> <p>The Whitley County Prosecutor's Office reported</p>	Whitley County Prosecutor's office

	15 public intoxication cases in superior and circuit court (2024). A decrease when comparing from the prior year (2023) where 26 public intoxication cases were reported, however, still an increase from 2022 where 9 were reported.	
3. Substance use among youth and adults continues to be a problem in Whitley County	<p>The Whitley County Probation Department had 131 adults referred for drugs/alcohol. (2023)</p> <p>The Whitley County Probation Department had 22 juveniles referred for drugs/alcohol. (2023)</p> <p>The Whitley County Superior Court Alcohol and Drug Program reported 268 adults in substance use programs. There were 72 females and 196 males. (2024)</p>	<p>Whitley County Probation Department</p> <p>Whitley County Superior Court Alcohol and Drug Program</p> <p>Indiana Department of Education</p>

### 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. Financial assistance continues to be a barrier to recovery for those dealing with substance use and mental health problems.	<p>1. Promote recovery through financial assistance incentives</p> <p>2. Facilitate collaborative meetings between mental health providers and</p>

	<p>judicial system representatives at monthly meetings</p> <p>3. Increase the knowledge about Drug Free Whitley County's financial resources</p>
2. There is a high rate of drug and alcohol related criminal activity	<p>1. Support law enforcement efforts to reduce drug presence in Whitley County</p> <p>2. Advocate for a Drug Court &amp; Jail Chemical Addiction Program (JCAP) at the new jail</p> <p>3. Work toward a re-entry program at Community Corrections</p>
3. Substance use among youth and adults continues to be a problem in Whitley County	<p>1. Incentivize schools to integrate substance use prevention programming starting in at least middle school</p> <p>2. Increase knowledge about Drug Free Whitley County financial resources for programming and equipment to prevent substance use</p> <p>3. Provide educational resources to the community at events or online</p>

#### 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: Allocate at least \$500 of the yearly grant funding towards substance use recovery incentives, such as mental health care, drug tests, or other recovery programs. Success will be proven with the grant requests and approval in the March grant process.

Goal 2: Increase the availability of mental health care services in probation/jail/community corrections by creating partnerships between mental health and criminal justice representatives. Success will be proven when counseling support, classes, or other efforts are reported back to the coalition by agency representatives.
<b>Problem Statement #2</b>
Goal 1: Allocate at least \$500 of the yearly grant funding towards police agencies to update their equipment required for their safety and enforcement of drug-related criminal activity.
Goal 2: Encourage the judicial system to establish a Drug Court by creating a collaborative environment at monthly meetings for mental health and criminal justice representatives to establish partnerships in 2025. Success will be proven with an increase in membership and grant requests at the March 2025 grant process.
<b>Problem Statement #3</b>
Goal 1: Allocate at least \$800 of the yearly grant funding per school corporation to incentivize corporations to host substance use prevention programs to increase youth awareness of drug and alcohol risks. By March 2026, half of our middle and high schools will have at least one substance use prevention program in place.
Goal 2: Every month, Drug Free Whitley County will email all school corporations with regional and local updates related to drugs and alcohol in order to provide education opportunities, data, and other programs to reduce student expulsion and suspension related to drugs and alcohol by 5% by March 2026.

### **Step 5: Plans to Achieve Goals**

*For each goal, list the steps required to achieve each*

Problem Statement #1	Steps
<p>Goal 1: Allocate at least \$500 of the yearly grant funding towards substance use recovery incentives, such as mental health care, drug tests, or other recovery programs. Success will be proven with the grant requests and approval in the March grant process.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss types of incentives that coalition members offer in their programs</li> <li>2. Encourage coalition members to apply for funding in the February grant process</li> <li>3. Set aside at least \$500 towards recovery incentives for the yearly grant cycle, and distribute funds as necessary</li> </ol>
<p>Goal 2: Increase the availability of mental health care services in probation/jail/community corrections by creating partnerships between mental health and criminal justice representatives. Success will be proven when counseling support, classes, or other efforts are reported back to the coalition by agency representatives.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase representation for judicial system representatives at Drug Free Whitley County</li> <li>2. Increase representation for mental health representatives at Drug Free Whitley County</li> <li>3. At meetings, provide resources and education about the benefits of mental health care to reduce reincarceration</li> </ol>
Problem Statement #2	Steps
<p>Goal 1: Allocate at least \$500 of the yearly grant funding towards police agencies to update their equipment required for their safety and enforcement of drug-related criminal activity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase membership for law enforcement agencies at Drug Free Whitley County</li> <li>2. Make a relationship with the Drug Task Force and request monthly reports at our meeting</li> <li>3. Provide necessary financial resources to increase patrol at high crime areas</li> </ol>

Goal 2: Encourage the judicial system to establish a Drug Court by creating a collaborative environment at monthly meetings for mental health and criminal justice representatives to establish partnerships in 2025. Success will be proven with an increase in membership and grant requests at the March 2025 grant process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase representation for judicial system representatives at Drug Free Whitley County</li> <li>2. Provide educational resources about Drug Court to judicial representatives</li> <li>3. Provide necessary financial resources to bring in an active Drug Court</li> </ol>
<b>Problem Statement #3</b>	<b>Steps</b>
Goal 1: Allocate at least \$800 of the yearly grant funding per school corporation to incentivize corporations to host substance use prevention programs to increase youth awareness of drug and alcohol risks. By March 2026, half of our middle and high schools will have at least one substance use prevention program in place.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notify all schools about Drug Free Whitley County's purpose and resources</li> <li>2. Provide data on youth substance use to school officials</li> <li>3. Provide necessary financial resources to SADD groups and leaders</li> </ol>
Goal 2: Every month, Drug Free Whitley County will email all school corporations with regional and local updates related to drugs and alcohol in order to provide education opportunities, data, and other programs to reduce student expulsion and suspension related to drugs and alcohol by 5% by March 2026.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notify all schools about Drug Free Whitley County's purpose and resources</li> <li>2. Get schools to have an active SADD representative at our monthly meetings</li> <li>3. Provide quarterly drug education to at least one school in the county</li> </ol>

## 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		
<b>1</b>	Amount deposited into the County DFC Fund from fees collected last year:	\$31,118.29
<b>2</b>	Amount of unused funds from last year that will roll over into this year:	\$0
<b>3</b>	Total funds available for programs and administrative costs for this year (Line 1 + Line 2):	\$31,118.29
<b>4</b>	Amount of funds granted last year:	\$29,163.36
Additional Funding Sources (if no money is received, please enter \$0.00)		
<b>A</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):	\$0.00
<b>B</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):	\$0.00
<b>C</b>	Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA):	\$0.00
<b>D</b>	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP):	\$0.00
<b>E</b>	Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH):	\$0.00
<b>F</b>	Indiana Department of Education (DOE):	\$0.00



<b>G</b>	Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA):	\$0.00
<b>H</b>	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA):	\$0.00
<b>I</b>	Local entities:	\$0.00
<b>J</b>	Other:	\$0.00
<b>Categorical Funding Allocations</b>		
Prevention/Education: \$ 7,972.76	Intervention/Treatment: \$7,972.76	Justice Services: \$ 7,972.76
<b>Funding allotted to Administrative costs: \$7,200</b>		
<i>Itemized list of what is being funded</i>		<i>Amount (\$100.00)</i>
Coordinator compensation		\$7,200
<b>Funding Allocations by Goal per Problem Statement:</b>		
<b>Problem Statement #1</b>  Goal 1: \$3,986.38  Goal 2: \$3,986.38	<b>Problem Statement #2</b>  Goal 1: \$3,986.38  Goal 2: \$3,986.38	<b>Problem Statement #3</b>  Goal 1: \$3,986.38  Goal 2: \$3,986.38