

KYO AAC



KENTUCKY OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

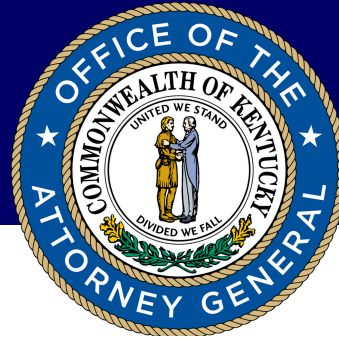
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director.....	3
2024 Key Activities.....	4
Our History.....	5
Kentucky’s Opioid Abatement Trust Fund.....	6
KYOAAC Members.....	7
From the Commission.....	8 - 11
Community Engagement.....	12
Summary of 2024 Grant Cycles.....	13 - 17
Abatement Funds at Work.....	18 - 22
Attorney General’s Youth Prevention Initiative.....	23
Opioid Symposium.....	24
KYOAAC Team.....	25 - 26
Letter from the Attorney General.....	27
Contact Information.....	28

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Feb. 1, 2025

To our partners, stakeholders and friends,

On behalf of the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC), I am pleased to provide an update for the year ending 2024. Over the past year, the KYOAAC has proudly allocated more than \$12 million in direct funding to more than 50 dedicated organizations. These invaluable partners are not just assisting those in need; they are paving the way for individuals seeking to reclaim their lives, supporting families healing from devastating loss, and helping children to become the best versions of themselves.

At the Commission, we hold a profound belief in the power of our mission: to support those who are working to save and rebuild lives impacted by the heartbreaking effects of substance abuse. Established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2022, our mandate is clear: to oversee the responsible distribution of Kentucky's share from the settlements with companies whose actions contributed to the opioid crisis. Within the pages of this report, you will witness how our Commission has embraced this mandate, while also offering a glimpse into the meaningful work that will continue into 2025.

I am incredibly proud of the commitment demonstrated by the Commission members and staff who have had the honor of supporting this essential work. The often challenging yet crucial efforts of organizations across the Commonwealth are turning settlement dollars into tangible change. While we recognize there is still much work to be done, we have borne witness to the extraordinary strength and resilience of Kentuckians. They are changing lives with recovery services, enhancing treatment accessibility, offering workforce training, and building prevention education programs, all while forging connections that empower support systems.

Together, we can build a brighter, healthier future for Kentucky—one where hope flourishes and lives are transformed. We will continue this vital work, hand in hand, as we rise to meet the challenges ahead with compassion and determination.

Sincerely,

Chris Evans

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Newly-elected Attorney General Russell Coleman appointed Chris Evans as the new Director of the Commission to start the year.
- The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission awarded more than \$12 million to 51 organizations dedicated to substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- Launched the Better Without It Youth Prevention Initiative with a \$3.6 million investment from the Commission to reach youth via social media and influencer campaigns that empower youth to make healthy, drug-free choices.
- Hosted more than 400 people at the 2024 Opioid Symposium in Louisville with two days of information, relationship and community building that highlighted the outstanding work of 2023 grant awardees.
- Commission members undertook a priority setting process for how to spend opioid abatement dollars in the 2025 grant cycle.





OUR HISTORY

The Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) was created by the General Assembly's unanimous passage of House Bill 427 during the 2022 Legislative Session. The Commission's purpose is to administer the Commonwealth's portion from lawsuit settlements the Attorney General reached with several companies for their roles in exacerbating the deadly opioid crisis.

"Together, we will be responsible stewards of the settlement funds as we build out a gold-standard statewide prevention effort to join the existing treatment and enforcement work that is saving lives and making Kentucky families whole." Attorney General Russell Coleman

KENTUCKY'S OPIOID ABATEMENT TRUST FUND

Kentucky Statute 15.291 establishes the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission as an appointed board to allocate funds received by the Commonwealth from settlements with various opioid distributing and manufacturing companies. Fifty percent of settlement funds come to the Commission, with the other half being allocated directly to eligible counties and municipalities.

The Commission has established a grant application process in order to disperse the majority of funds as they come in to the state over the period of the settlements. An application was open through March of 2024, resulting in more than 160 applications representing more than \$85 million in funding requests. The competitive process with careful review from Commission members resulted in more than \$12 million awarded. New applications for funding in the 2025/26 fiscal year opened in November and will be awarded in Spring 2025.

Funding requests must follow the guidelines of the settlements, which are set out in KRS 15.291. In 2024, Commission members began a process for setting annual priorities to guide how funds will be allocated.



KENTUCKY OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION



The Commission has nine voting members and two non-voting legislative appointments. Membership is established by statute and includes stakeholders from, among others, the prevention and treatment community, law enforcement and victims of the opioid crisis.

Commission Members

- **Chris Evans**, Chair and Executive Director of the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Commission, appointed to represent the Attorney General (AG).
- **Darren “Foot” Allen**, Manager of Court Security, Administrative Office of the Courts, appointed by the AG to represent law enforcement.
- **Eric Friedlander**, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, appointed by statute.
- **Patricia Freeman, PhD.**, Researcher in the College of Pharmacy, representing the HEALing Communities Study Team at the University of Kentucky, appointed by statute.
- **Chris Fugate**, District 84 Representative, House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- **Van Ingram**, Executive Director for the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, appointed by the AG to represent the drug treatment and prevention community.
- **Karen Kelly**, Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Hal Rogers, appointed by the Senate President.
- **Mark H. Metcalf**, Kentucky State Treasurer, appointed by statute.
- **Von Purdy**, Vice President for Advancement and Community Engagement at Simmons College, appointed by the AG to represent citizens at large.
- **Debbie Rains**, Educator, appointed by the AG to represent parents of addicted loved ones affected by the opioid crisis.
- **Jason Roop, PhD.**, CEO and Professor of Business and Theology, appointed by the AG to represent victims of the opioid crisis.

FROM THE COMMISSION

"By working together, the Beshear-Coleman Administration, addiction treatment programs, non-profit organizations, health departments and many others, Kentucky has seen a reduction in overdose deaths the last two years, which is saving families and children from further pain and loss. But there is still much work left to do, and together, we won't stop championing for Kentuckians seeking addiction treatment until every life is saved. If you or loved one is faced with addiction, there is hope for you in Kentucky and we are ready to help." **Van Ingram**



"Being on the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission is one of the greatest honors of my career as this work is more important than ever. The KYOAC is intentionally focused on bringing solutions to the scourge of opioids across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. My colleagues and I are dedicated to this mission of health and healing to make Kentucky a better community for all its citizens experiencing the pain of this disease."

Von Purdy

"I'm honored to represent the law enforcement component on the Commission. Many times law enforcement is the gatekeeper or first contact with individuals struggling with the ravages of addiction. Law enforcement officers face conflicting demands in enforcing our ever changing drug laws and the protection of lives, property and well-being of our citizenry. Ultimately, we care and always strive to make our corners of the world better and safer. It's why I'm grateful General Coleman chose me to serve on the Commission, specifically the Prevention Sub-Committee. It's where my training, experience and ultimately where my heart lies. Pressing on for a better Kentucky." **Darren "Foot" Allen**



FROM THE COMMISSION

“As a member of the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, and a person in long term recovery, my work is driven by a deep commitment to addressing the root causes of addiction and extending help and support to those suffering. By implementing innovative, community-focused solutions, we aim to provide hope, healing, and a path to recovery for individuals and families impacted by this epidemic. While we’ve accomplished much good, there is still important work to do.



I’d love to see more support go to local, grassroots organizations that bring innovative and transformative strategies to the table. I truly believe we are creating a foundation for lasting change in Kentucky.” **Dr. Jason Roop**



“It is an honor to serve on the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission. Our collective efforts to mitigate the opioid crisis in Kentucky span the continuum of care – from prevention to treatment and harm reduction. We aim to ensure that Kentuckians impacted by opioid use disorder have access to evidence-based treatment, recovery support services and resources to prevent opioid overdose and reduce harm from opioid use, that families whose lives have

been forever changed as a result of the crisis have access to the supports they need, and that we do everything possible to prevent opioid use and addiction from impacting our next generation.” **Dr. Patricia Freeman**

FROM THE COMMISSION

"I was honored to vote for the legislation that created the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission in 2022 because I know there is incredible value in bringing together state and local leaders, including law enforcement, victims of the opioid epidemic, and experts in prevention and treatment. These drugs have been a plague on our people, taking a toll on our health, families, and local communities for far too long. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use opioid settlement funds and to further



the work of Attorney General Coleman to address the devastation in constructive and lifesaving ways. The Commission ensures we use this opportunity to the very best of our abilities." **Representative Chris Fugate**



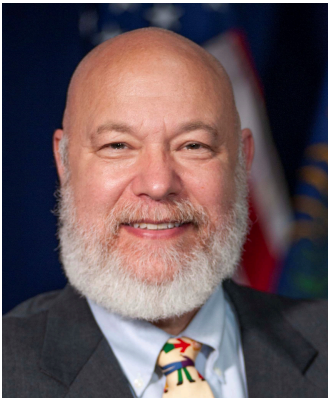
"It is an honor to serve on the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, where transformative action is turning the tide against the opioid crisis. Through strategic investment and unwavering commitment, this Commission is driving prevention, expanding recovery, and restoring hope to families and communities devastated by addiction. Together, we are building a legacy of resilience and renewal for our Commonwealth." **Treasurer Mark Metcalf**

"The honor of serving on the KYOAAC, allows me a chance to personally be involved and encourage the prevention, treatment, and recovery of those individuals and families who are affected or will be affected by the opioid crisis. As a mother, who personally saw the deadly effects of a son's addiction, my involvement on this Commission is a personal mission. Our Commonwealth's success in addressing these needs, will provide our families with a chance for a happy and prosperous future."

Deborah Rains



FROM THE COMMISSION



“The goal of this Commission, aligned with Team Kentucky’s unwavering commitment to addressing the opioid epidemic, is to support programs and strategies that lead to health and wholeness for Kentuckians whose lives have been impacted by substance use disorder. In 2025, we will launch a youth prevention initiative, support evidence-based innovations, and promote continuity of care across every community. Together, we can provide hope

and safety for loved ones and neighbors, turning the tide for thousands who are victims of this crisis.” **Secretary Eric Friedlander**

“In Kentucky, we are thankful to see a decline in overdose death rates over the last two years. Unfortunately, we’re still losing far too many Kentuckians to a preventable tragedy. Congressman Rogers and I have seen remarkable successes by addressing the epidemic with a holistic approach that focuses on investigations, treatment and education. I am honored to continue this important effort with the Commission, alongside my good friends, Attorney General Russell Coleman and Senate President Robert Stivers. As long as we continue our work, there will always be hope for recovery and prevention in Kentucky.” **Karen Kelly**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, Commission members and staff traveled across the Commonwealth to hear from communities about the work going on and what still needs to be done to improve treatment, recovery and prevention in Kentucky. The Commission and staff remain dedicated to serving Kentucky not only from offices in Frankfort, but by also connecting in board rooms, treatment centers, recovery houses, community projects, and schools throughout Kentucky.

Engagement in 2024 included site visits to 2023 grant awardees, trainings and webinars related to the application process and for our county and city partners managing local settlement funds, medical and educational engagements and lots of meetings, phone calls, handshakes and hugs.



2024 GRANTEES

In 2024, the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission awarded over \$12 million in grant funding to 51 organizations across the Commonwealth providing substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery. During the spring grant cycle, the Commission received more than 160 applications seeking over \$85 million. The following organizations received grant funding from the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission:

Prevention Grants

Anderson County Local KY-ASAP, \$171,100

Supports expansion of school-based prevention efforts and supports law enforcement training.

Appalachian Research & Defense Fund of KY, Inc. (AppalRed Legal Aid), \$125,000

Supports Project Renew, which provides legal support and wraparound services that help stabilize people in recovery by addressing employment barriers and other destabilizing civil legal issues.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, Inc., \$185,301

Supports the High School Mentoring program, to empower high school students to become positive role models for younger students.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana, \$200,000

Supports SMART Moves in SMART Spaces, an innovative program aimed at opioid prevention for youth aged 6 - 18 served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana (BGCK).

Carter County Public Library, \$101,500

Supports the Sound2Sky Passport initiative by hiring resource specialists to provide individuals affected by SUD with greater access to recovery-oriented programming.

Covington Partners, Inc., \$225,450

Supports prevention programming that includes out-of-school-time programs, school based health services, mentoring, drug and violence prevention, and family engagement.

Cumberland Trace Legal Services, Inc., Kentucky Legal Aid, \$124,931

Supports Project Renew, which provides legal support and wraparound services that help stabilize people in recovery by addressing employment barriers and other destabilizing civil legal issues.

DV8 Kitchen Vocational Training Foundation, Inc. and DV8 Kitchens, \$151,730

Supports the DV8 Employee Success Mentorship Program, which will focus on removing barriers, supporting career path development and job readiness while also supporting active substance abuse recovery and wellness.

Girl Scouts Of Kentucky Wilderness Road Council, Inc., \$59,052

Supports the launch of the Building the Bridge to K-12 Girls Leadership project, a community-based prevention program that focuses on increasing girls' positive childhood experiences.

Jewish Family and Career Services, \$77,270

Supports a variety of services for youth while ensuring basic needs are met. Identifies risk factors for opioid misuse with a focus on screening, prevention and local referrals.

Legal Aid Society, Inc., \$125,000

Supports Project Renew, which provides legal support and wraparound services that help stabilize people in recovery by addressing employment barriers and other destabilizing civil legal issues.

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, \$125,000

Supports Project Renew, which provides legal support and wraparound services that help stabilize people in recovery by addressing employment barriers and other destabilizing civil legal issues.

Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital, LLC, \$76,552

Supports implementing a hospital-based, pharmacy-led tapering program.

Operation Parent, Inc., \$87, 011

Supports prevention education for parents of 4th, 6th and 9th grade students in several Kentucky counties.

The Safety Blitz Foundation, \$126,335

Supports a pilot version of The Coaches vs. Overdoses™ program, which addresses youth opioid misuse, the proliferation of synthetic opioids including illicit fentanyl, through prevention, education, awareness, and community drug disposal programming.

Scott County Sheriff's Office, \$91,847

Supports DARE programming for students in 5th and 9th grades.

Taylor County Schools, \$202,824

Supports a school-based drug prevention program in Taylor County School District.

Three Rivers District Health Department, \$320,803

Supports partnership with the Planet Youth program to implement a population-wide primary prevention process designed to take informed actions to increase protective factors, decrease risk factors, and ultimately change the environment of children and youth.

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, \$380,572

Supports development of prevention coalitions in Fayette County, educates 4th through 12th grade students, and build community capacity and engagement around prevention efforts.

Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment & Education (Operation UNITE), \$751,850

Supports continuation and expansion of the Educate. Empower. Prevent. Program, which provides prevention training to students from 4th to 12th grades.

Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation, \$90,472

Supports the initiation of a Youth Substance Intervention and Prevention program that prevents substance use and abuse and promotes positive youth development and stronger families.

WestCare Kentucky, Inc., \$100,404

Supports Camp Morilla, a free addiction prevention and mentoring day camp program for youth ages 9 – 12 and their families who have been impacted by family opioid use.

Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Louisville, \$248,487

Supports the YNOW Mentoring Program, which focuses on helping youth develop healthy drug-free and violence-free lives.

Treatment and Recovery Grants

Appalachian Regional Healthcare, \$94,572

Supports expanding the Peer Recovery Team so Peer Recovery Coaches can be placed in four additional hospitals.

Backroads of Appalachia, \$167,025

Supports women in recovery with workforce training and employment opportunities.

Boyle County Local KY-ASAP Board, \$282,610

Supports the expansion of the work in harm reduction, resilient kids programming, and case management efforts.

Celebrate Recovery Fairdale, Corp., \$30,004

Supports weekly recovery meetings.

Center for Employment Opportunities, \$255,109

Supports expansion of employment services for justice impacted individuals in treatment or recovery.

Chrysalis House, Inc., \$227,273

Supports treatment for pregnant and parenting women.

Comprehend, Inc., \$426,087

Supports opening a buprenorphine clinic in a community mental health center.

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, \$450,000

Supports Project REACH (Recovery Employment and Career Help), which provides career and support services for individuals who are in recovery from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and comorbid polysubstance use who are interested in entering or re-entering the workforce.

Family Nurturing Center of Kentucky, \$221,937

Supports services for children impacted by their caregiver's opioid use and provides needed support to parents in recovery

Family Scholar House, \$245,110

Supports REAL (Recovery, Employment, Advocacy, and Limitless) Opportunities, a 5-step approach revolving around provision of wrap-around services during and post-treatment that will progress individuals from 'crisis to stability' targeting single parents, foster alumni, individuals facing reentry, and post-secondary students.

Grin Grant, \$361,251

Supports expansion of the number of dental restoration scholarships and peer support services for GrinGrant.org as well as launching the RecoveryGlue.org program (telehealth continuum care, IOP and OP program for newly established recovery).

Hope Center, Inc., \$680,280

Supports in-patient, residential treatment for men with OUD.

Hope Springs Church, \$50,462

Provides recovery support, meetings and events.

Horsesensing, Inc., \$115,219

Supports therapeutic job training in the horse industry and recovery housing for those in recovery.

Isaiah House, Inc., \$250,000

Supports recovery housing and job training aftercare opportunities for those in long-term recovery.

Kentucky Hospital Research and Education Foundation (KHREF), \$250,000

Supports expansion of the KY SOS ED Bridge Program, which ensures patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) have 24/7 access to care through Emergency Departments (ED).

Lake Cumberland Area Development District Inc., \$277,552

Supports case management and supportive services to individuals in OUD recovery seeking to re-enter the workforce.

Life Learning Center, \$498,500

Supports development and implementation of Recovery Capital Solutions (RCS), a cutting-edge, technology-enhanced system designed to fill existing gaps in recovery services by providing continuous, real-time data, support, and accountability.

Mercy Health - Marcum and Wallace Hospital, \$179,834

Supports recovery services for individuals with criminal justice involvement.

Natalie's Sisters, Inc., \$88,356

Supports expansion of SUD services for women who have been sexually exploited or trafficked.

Northeast Kentucky Regional Health Information Organization, Inc. (KY RHIO), \$331,997

Supports Career Ready Workforce Project, focused on prevention with high school students preparing to enter the workforce, individuals struggling with SUD/OUD, and local agency staff members seeking to increase employable skills.

Ramey-Estep Homes, Inc., \$222,801

Supports teen prevention programming, expansion of first responder trauma treatment programming, and expansion of treatment and recovery access.

Recovery Café Lexington, \$276,278

Supports expansion of this recovery support model to a third location in Frankfort.

Transitions Inc., \$156,000

Supports the expansion and enhancement of treatment services, as well as expanded community education and prevention activities in the African American community.

Voices of Hope - Lexington, Inc., \$538,023

Supports Access to Quality Individual Recovery Engagement (ACQUIRE) which aims to increase the quantity and quality of Recovery Support Services (RSS) for people in or seeking recovery from opioid use disorder and other co-morbid polysubstance use.

Volunteers of America Mid-States, \$664,587

Supports two recovery community centers in Lincoln in Pulaski Counties.

Western Kentucky MH-MR Board, Four Rivers Behavioral Health, \$232,251

Supports the Mobile Recovery Support Vehicle program, MATR (Mobile Access to Recovery) that provides services to individuals over the age of 18.

Young People in Recovery, \$301,440

Supports peer-led chapters and life-skills curriculum programs for people seeking recovery, and a youth prevention program for middle school and high school-aged children and their parents in five communities.

Of the \$12,029,053 awarded during the spring grant cycle, \$4,154,497 was given to organizations dedicated to substance use prevention. The remaining \$7,874,556 was given to organizations dedicated to substance use treatment and recovery.

\$12,029,053

BACK TO KENTUCKY

TREATMENT & RECOVERY

65%

PREVENTION

35%



ABATEMENT FUNDS AT WORK

FOUR RIVERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

During the first 53 days of funding from the Commission, the Mobile Access To Recovery (MATR) program reached more than 400 people, distributed 350 naloxone kits and provided essential hygiene and cold-weather supplies -- as well as made door-to-door outreach with health department support. One individual, caught off guard by a visit, admitted she was struggling with substance use and wasn't expecting anyone to come to her door. She agreed to seek treatment the very next day and has now completed a 28-day program, actively engaging with our peer support team.



RAMEY ESTEP

With its first award, Ramey Estep impacted more than 2,000 lives -- helping clients access services easier through transportation and treatment vouchers, as well as receiving crucial medical care on-site at the residential facility. Funding also helped launch a Horticulture Program, which touched more than 1,000 clients through therapeutic time in the greenhouse



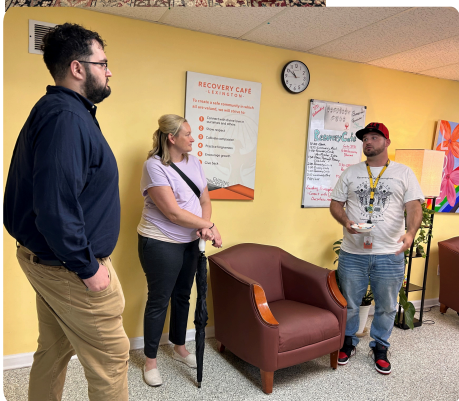
classes on how to grow, harvest and preserve plants; growing, tending and cultivating plants; and marketing and sales of inventory. Through the First Responders Services Program, more than 200 First Responders who are experiencing trauma symptoms stemming from the opioid epidemic have received education, skill building, tools, and/or treatment to assist them towards resilience and overall wellbeing.

ABATEMENT FUNDS AT WORK

BACKROADS OF APPALACHIA

Opioid funds made it possible to launch a training program with weekly sessions that provide hands-on instruction in the film industry. Each week, professionals guide women in recovery through essential aspects of production, such as editing, lighting, and storytelling. It's incredible to see the excitement and dedication they bring to this opportunity.

So far, filming is complete for two episodes of Appalachia's Happiest Places, with editing currently underway. This 10-episode series plus a bonus episode highlighting these women in recovery will air on Tubi and Amazon Prime.



RECOVERY CAFE

Initial funding was utilized to expand services at the Lexington Cafe, while creating space in Louisville. With a second round of funding, the Cafe model is now expanding to a Frankfort location.

"Recovery is not an easy process and forming a community with the people here has shown me I am not alone. The staff has been extremely friendly and inclusive in a way that makes me feel cared for. They have provided a place where I feel like I fit in. Knowing that the staff and members have been in similar circumstances and have made progress in their journey makes me want to continue doing well in mine." **Derek P.**

ABATEMENT FUNDS AT WORK



SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

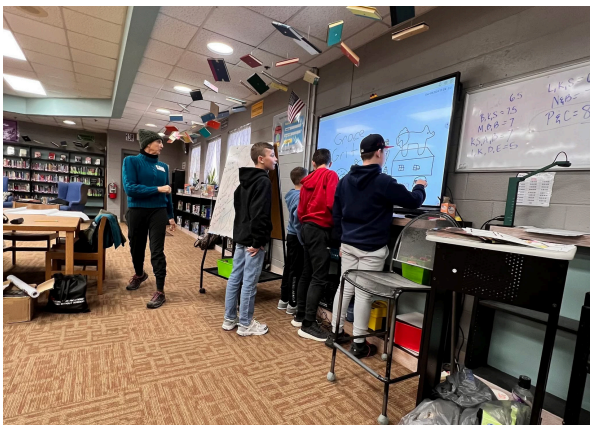
"It is evident the kids are learning valuable skills to adopt a healthy lifestyle and make good decisions. These skills allow them to not only recognize the dangers of opioid abuse, but identify healthy lifestyle habits and how to help others."

Captain Joshua Bedson



TAYLOR COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Taylor County Schools is using funds to implement evidence-based in-school prevention to multiple age groups. "We are pleased to be able to offer these innovative, and potentially lifesaving, interventions to our students." **Lindsey McPherson**



ENRICH

"We believe every individual deserves access to the resources and support needed to thrive in their recovery journey. Acting as the center point for community resource collaboration, Enrich brings together families, organizations, and governmental partners to ensure effective outreach and meaningful impact. Together, we are creating pathways to hope, opportunity, and a brighter future for all seeking help." **Dan Kirstein**

ABATEMENT FUNDS AT WORK

KY RIVER DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"The KY River District's Hub represents hope and a lifeline for those battling substance use disorder. It's a place where stigma is replaced with support, and every step towards recovery is celebrated. Watching lives transform through connection, compassion and community is the heart of why this work matters so deeply."

JoAnn Fraley



YMCA Y-NOW



"As a first-year volunteer mentor, Y-NOW has already FAR exceeded my expectations in terms of how well it's conceived, the people involved, and its direct impact on vulnerable youth and families in our community." **Ismail Morrar**

THE FREEDOM CENTER

Michael celebrated one year of sobriety from opioid addiction in September. We have helped him and others with faith-based life coaching, encouragement and connection to resources such as housing, healthcare, and transportation. "It's hard to do this alone," said Michael, "and with the Freedom Center, I'm NEVER ALONE."

YES ARTS

"Yes Arts Youth (YAY) is a robust youth prevention program that provides trauma-informed care, mental health first aide and suicide prevention to reduce the risk of falling into the cycle of addiction and to mitigate harm due to generational trauma."

Elle Travis

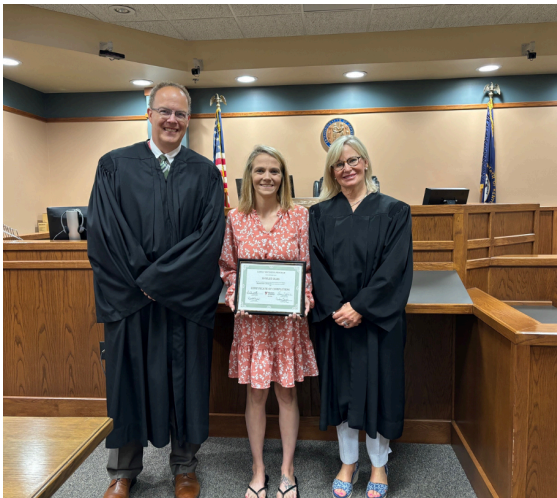


ABATEMENT FUNDS AT WORK

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

"Because of the VOA program, I now have my peer support certification, I'm a little over a year clean, I have my babies back, and I get a new start to a new life."

VOA Recovery Community Center member, Haylee

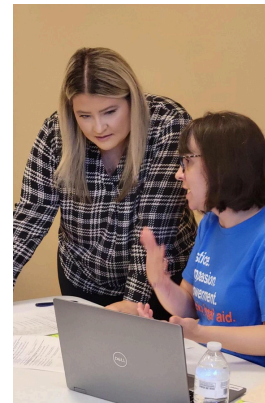


YOUNG PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

In 2024, five Young People In Recovery chapters hosted 533 events and had 12,229 people in attendance. YPR also facilitated 326 life skills courses with 4,869 in attendance.

KENTUCKY LEGAL AID

"A significant obstacle for many individuals in recovery is difficulty finding or maintaining employment due to legal issues, often stemming from a criminal record. Project Renew provides free legal aid and support services, tackling issues like housing, employment, and family matters. This includes securing more than 4,000 expungement orders." **Sarah Kapps Hayes**



OPIOID SYMPOSIUM

More than 400 people attended the 2024 Opioid Symposium for two days of learning and community building, hosted by the Commission and supported by platinum sponsor the Kentucky Association of Health Plans.

With over 20 informational sessions to choose from, attendees were able to learn from and engage with more than 60 speakers on topics related to best practices in recovery, prevention and treatment, in addition to workshops on grant writing.

A highlight of the event was the Grantee Showcase, featuring a hall dedicated to highlighting the work of dozens of organizations who received grants during the 2023 grant cycle.



Christopher Evans

In January 2024, Chris Evans was appointed to the Commission as the Executive Director by Attorney General Russell Coleman. In this role, he oversees the distribution of the state's portion of more than \$800 million from settlements with opioid manufacturers. Chris has a B.A. and M.A. from Rutgers University and previously served as the first Special Agent in Charge of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) efforts in Appalachia. He later led DEA's global operations and created nationwide programs to combat drug trafficking, violent crime, and illicit opioid distribution networks. Chris resides with his wife and family in Louisville.

Jessie Halladay

Jessie Halladay joined the Commission in January 2024 as the Deputy Director. Jessie oversees staff for the Commission, working to improve overall operations, efficiency, accountability and transparency as the Commission supports great work being done throughout Kentucky. A native of Detroit, Jessie has made her home in Louisville for more than 20 years. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Northwestern University.

Jessica Bowman

Jessica Bowman joined the Commission in January 2025. Jessica serves as the Accountability and Advancement Specialist, working to enhance county reporting and expand assistance for grantees and counties using abatement funds. A proud Texas native, Jessica has made Louisville her home for the past two decades. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Louisville and brings over 20 years of experience in higher education and nonprofit sectors. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending time with her two children and her beloved dog, Tessa.

Alison Chavies

Alison Chavies joined the Commission in August 2022. She serves as the Grant Specialist, who oversees the application process and everyday communications for the Commission. A Tennessee native, Alison grew up on her family's farm and came to Kentucky in 2003 where she obtained a B.S. in Business and Administration and Master's in Corrections and Adult and Juvenile Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. Here, she met her husband, and they have two beautiful boys.

KYO AAC TEAM

Julianne Hatton

Julianne Hatton joined the Commission in November 2024 and is the Accountability and Engagement Specialist, overseeing grantee financial reporting and community outreach. Julianne received her master's degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and worked in broadcast media for over 25 years throughout Kentucky. Julianne and her husband Tom reside in Frankfort and are the parents of four adult children.

COMMISSION 2024 INTERNS

During the summer of 2024, the Commission was thrilled to have three amazing interns join us to advance the work being done to fight opioid addiction in Kentucky. All three of these Kentuckians came to us ahead of their senior year to gain knowledge that would help prepare them for their goals in law school, while giving back to the Commonwealth they love. We appreciate all their hard work and wish them the best as they chase their dreams.

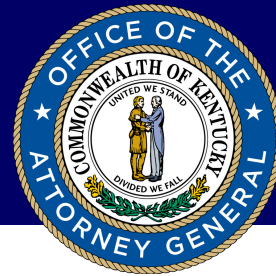
Andrew Denham, of Mason County, Hanover College

Michelle Lopez, of Anderson County, Morehead State University

Brenna Staser, of Henderson County, University of Kentucky



FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Feb. 1, 2025



I write this letter with gratitude for the great accomplishments delivered for Kentucky during the first year of our term. At the top of the list, the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission awarded more than \$12 million to organizations – big and small – for their recovery efforts from the Purchase to the Parkway. These organizations are working every day to transform lives and heal families.

I had the privilege to visit several of their facilities and meet with the dedicated individuals putting in the work to help Kentuckians along the long road to recovery. From DV8 Kitchen in Lexington to Volunteers of America Mid-States' Recovery Community Center in Somerset, what I witnessed was extremely humbling. It also reaffirmed the importance of the Opioid Abatement Commission's work and the resources entrusted to its care.

In partnership with the Commission, I am committed to being a worthy steward of these dollars. It's why we are diligent about where we spend them and vigorous in our efforts to secure additional funding from those who fueled the man-made crisis. We recently announced a \$110 million settlement with Kroger for its role in worsening this epidemic. After years of contributing to the drug problem, we are grateful that Kroger has agreed to be part of the solution.

A new year brings new opportunities to help more Kentuckians. This year, we will see the full implementation of the "Better Without It" initiative to reach Kentucky's young people where they are with a positive message to prevent addiction. From college athletics to social media advertisements, we are ambitiously implementing an effective program among youth to stop addiction before it starts.

I'm proud of our many accomplishments, but our work is far from over. I look forward to continuing this effort with every one of you to save lives in Kentucky.

Gratefully,

Bill M. Colman

CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission's website to stay updated: [Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission](https://www.kyoaac.com).

Email the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission for any additional information or questions: kyoaac@ky.gov.

