



BJA's  
**Comprehensive**  
Opioid, Stimulant,  
and Substance Abuse  
Program



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Kentucky State Police  
Kentucky Comprehensive Advocacy and Resource Efforts

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

**Overview**

Opioid abuse has been a persistent and pervasive issue in Kentucky for nearly 20 years. Although the commonwealth has been working diligently to address this devastating challenge, in 2017 Kentucky still had the fifth-highest age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths, with 37.2 deaths per 100,000 individuals. Kentucky communities are facing significant difficulties related to substance abuse, including an exponential increase in neonatal abstinence syndrome, a skyrocketing rate of out-of-home or foster placements for children, and a substantial increase in blood-borne diseases that are openly spread among intravenous drug users. In addition, the state is experiencing a drastic rise in substance abuse-related criminal justice involvement, including a statewide 16.3 percent increase in heroin trafficking citations and an increase of 67 percent in fentanyl and fentanyl analog submissions to the Kentucky State Police Laboratory from January 2017 to September 2018. The Kentucky Comprehensive Advocacy and Resource Efforts (K-CARE) Program will serve all 120 Kentucky counties through the 16 Kentucky State Police (KSP) posts throughout the state. Kentucky's rural areas, almost 75 percent of its counties, have poorer health outcomes and greater barriers to mental health services. In these communities, the experiences of

poverty, geographic isolation, and lack of health services are exacerbated by substance abuse, creating a great need in each county affected by this epidemic.

**Grant Focus**

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic .
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

The K-CARE program will help to ensure that individuals negatively affected by opioids are supported by a community resource coordinator (CRC) at each of the 16 KSP posts across the state. The CRCs will be responsible for intervening in crises, conducting needs assessments, providing appropriate links to necessary services within the local community, and making referrals to opioid detoxification and treatment facilities. CRCs and law enforcement officers will work collaboratively to identify individuals in need of services, to prevent further criminal justice involvement and to provide a vital link to those seeking help. K-CARE CRCs will help individuals in need to secure access to:

- Necessary health care services, including treatment and recovery services.
- Transportation.
- Employment assistance.
- Job training and vocational rehabilitation programs.
- Independent/transitional housing options.

K-CARE will also participate in the KSP Angel Initiative, which allows a person experiencing substance abuse to voluntarily present him- or herself at any KSP post to request help. With the help of the CRCs, the Angel Initiative will provide greater linkage to community resources, reducing the burden on troopers. Implementation of K-CARE serves the communities and persons deeply affected by the opioid epidemic by:

- Linking individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) with appropriate substance abuse treatment services.
- Providing supportive services for individuals negatively affected by OUD, including social and emotional support, individual and group counseling, and linkage with community resources such as food stamps and housing.
- Providing appropriate crisis intervention and connection with community-based resources such as shelter, assistance with filing a protective order, or obtaining a sexual assault forensic exam.
- Acting as a liaison during the investigation and prosecution of OUD-related crimes.

- Assisting victims of OUD-related crimes with the completion of applications for Crime Victims Assistance funds.
- Securing language interpretation services when needed.
- Assisting with transportation.
- Assisting with the sign-up process for Victim Information Notification Everyday services.
- Assessing safety.

K-CARE program staff members will also partner with community-based services in each location to create a resource document for each of the counties served, which will provide information about available services, specific contacts, and necessary next steps. To improve outcomes of children affected by substance use disorder, KSP will partner with school-based family resource centers, youth service centers, court-appointed special advocates, child advocacy centers, and guardian ad litem court services, as well as other relevant programs that help to meet the needs of these youth and ensure access to appropriate services.

## Project Partners

- Kentucky State Police (KSP)
- Kentucky Office for Drug Control Policy
- Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
- Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Grants Management Division

## Contact Information

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