



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



Virginia  
Mount Rogers Community Services  
Twin County Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Project

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

**Overview**

This project focuses on the Twin County area of southwest Virginia, which includes Carroll County, Grayson County, and the city of Galax. Drug arrest rates grew significantly in the area between 2007 and 2016—the rates for Carroll County and Galax exceeded the rate for Virginia as a whole. Fatal drug overdose rates for fentanyl and for opioid combinations also exceeded the state averages. Another indicator of the prevalence of drug/opioid use is the neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) discharge rate for the Twin County localities. While all three localities have rates higher than that of the state, the NAS rate for Galax is more than four times the state rate. Virginia Department of Health data also indicate a significantly elevated hepatitis C rate for Galax. Yet another indicator in the region is the number of children in foster care. Two localities experienced major increases in foster care placements between 2014 and 2019 due to parental substance use disorders: Galax (1,600 percent) and

Carroll County (422 percent). The area has significantly lower income and higher poverty rates compared to Virginia as a whole. As a result, when parents are incarcerated, the impacts on children and families can be devastating.

**Grant Focus**

- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

The Twin County COAP Project will focus on the following:

- Hiring, training, certifying, and deploying two additional peer recovery support specialists to focus on the treatment of families affected by opioid abuse. A system navigator position also will be added to provide intensive support services to families and youth affected by opioid abuse.
- Identifying and securing an interim recovery housing option for affected individuals.
- Exploring opportunities for collaboration to improve services for families of individuals experiencing opioid addiction by convening regular partnership meetings among several agencies and organizations. Activities may include training for law enforcement and youth-serving organizations and colocating a Mount Rogers Community Services clinician with a law enforcement officer to assist with screening, assessing, referring, and/or providing services to children and families impacted by substance abuse.
- Exploring the development of a family treatment court in the Twin County area.

## Project Partners

- Twin County Recovery Court
- Galax City Police Department
- Carroll County Sheriff's Department
- Grayson County Sheriff's Department

## Contact Information

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