



Opioid Solutions: Core Strategies Youth Prevention

April 9, 2026

KACo Opioid Solutions Learning Opportunities



Kentucky counties continue to lead the way in addressing the opioid epidemic through thoughtful, strategic use of opioid settlement dollars. To support this work, KACo is launching Opioid Solutions, a nine-part webinar series in 2026 designed to help counties better understand and implement the core strategies outlined in [Exhibit E](#) of the national opioid settlements.

Each monthly session will take a deep dive into one allowable strategy area and will include:

- A clear explanation of the strategy and how it fits within settlement requirements
- Practical guidance for local implementation
- Real-world examples of county-funded opioid abatement programs
- Tips to support impact, sustainability, and compliance



Allowable uses of Opioid Settlement Funds



Core strategies:

- **Naloxone** or other opioid overdose reversal drugs
- **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) / MAT**
- Services for **pregnant women and parents**
- Expanding treatment for **neonatal abstinence syndrome**
- Expansion of **warm hand-off programs** and recovery services
- Treatment for **incarcerated populations**
- **Prevention** programs
- Expanding **syringe service** programs
- Evidence-based **data collection** on the effectiveness of abatement strategies

See Exhibit E, the National Opioid Settlement Agreement



GRAVES COUNTY
ASAP



SPRING INTO ACTION

PRESCRIPTION DISPOSAL TAKEBACK EVENT
KIWANIS PARK, MAYFIELD KY

- **FOOD TRUCKS**
- **FACE PAINT**
- **YARD GAMES**
- **RESOURCE VENDORS**

APRIL 25TH, 2025
3:00-6:00PM

BRING ANY EXPIRED OR UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION TO BE DISPOSED OF ON SITE

Funding media campaigns to prevent opioid misuse

Corrective advertising or affirmative public education campaigns based on evidence

Public education relating to drug disposal

Drug take-back disposal or destruction programs

Funding community anti-drug coalitions that engage in drug prevention efforts

Engaging non-profits and faith-based communities as systems to support prevention



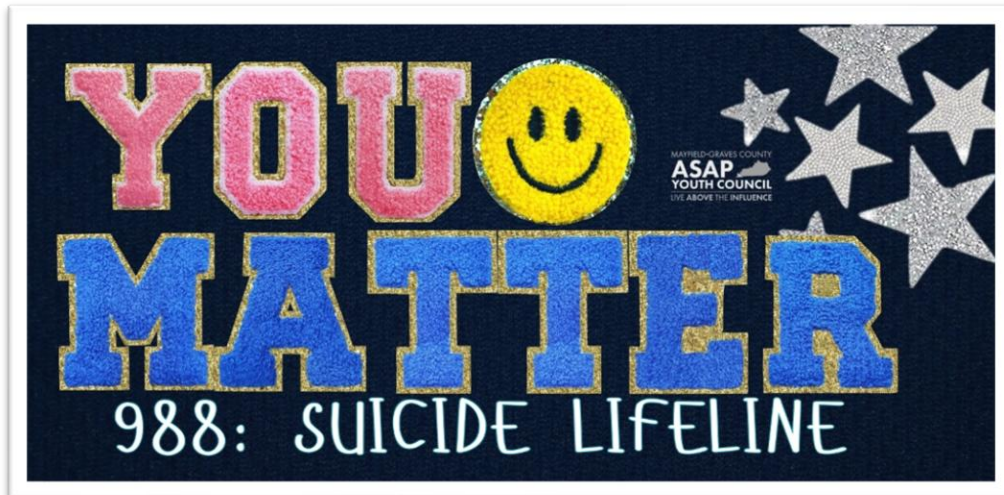
Funding evidence-based prevention programs in schools or evidence-informed school and community education programs and campaigns for students, families, school employees, school athletic programs, parent-teacher and student associations, and others.

School-based or youth-focused programs or strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse and seem likely to be effective in preventing the uptake and use of opioids.

Create or support community-based education or intervention services for families, youth, and adolescents at risk for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.

Support evidence-informed programs or curricula to address mental health needs of young people who may be at risk of misusing opioids or other drugs, including emotional modulation and resilience skills.

Support greater access to mental health services and supports for young people, including services and supports provided by school nurses, behavioral health workers or other school staff, to address mental health needs in young people that (when not properly addressed) increase the risk of opioid or another drug misuse.



Monroe County


- Expanded evidence-based curriculum *Too Good For Drugs* to all fifth-grade students in Monroe County



Menifee County

- Supported the School Resource Officer in implementing an evidence-based curriculum for the prevention of substance use in the school system

Substance Use Prevention



**Too Good for Drugs
Maximizing Life**

Skills development is at the core of *Too Good for Drugs / Maximizing Life*, a universal K-12 prevention education program designed to mitigate the risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) use. The lessons introduce and develop skills for making healthy choices, building positive friendships, developing self-efficacy, communicating effectively, and resisting peer pressure and influence.

Too Good for Drugs / Maximizing Life teaches five essential character development skills to build self-efficacy, promote healthy development, and academic success:

- Setting Reachable Goals
- Making Responsible Decisions
- Bonding with Pro-Social Others
- Identifying and Managing Emotions
- Communicating Effectively

Elementary Middle School High School





Strengthening Prevention

Addressing Opioid Risk Together

PRESENTED BY

Dorothy Chaney, M.ED.

President, Impact Community Planning Group, LLC

If we want to reduce opioid overdoses... where should we focus?



- A. Treatment
- B. Harm reduction
- C. Prevention



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IMPACT.
COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Learning Objectives

This presentation will cover the key strategies necessary for effectively addressing opioid risk through prevention, understanding early substance use, and promoting community-led initiatives.





Why Prevention Matters for Communities

- Communities are investing opioid settlement funding
- There is urgency to show impact
- Most efforts focus on **responding** to harm
- Fewer efforts focus on preventing risk





PREVENTION ≡

Understanding Prevention



**When you hear the term “prevention”
what comes to mind?**



PREVENTION



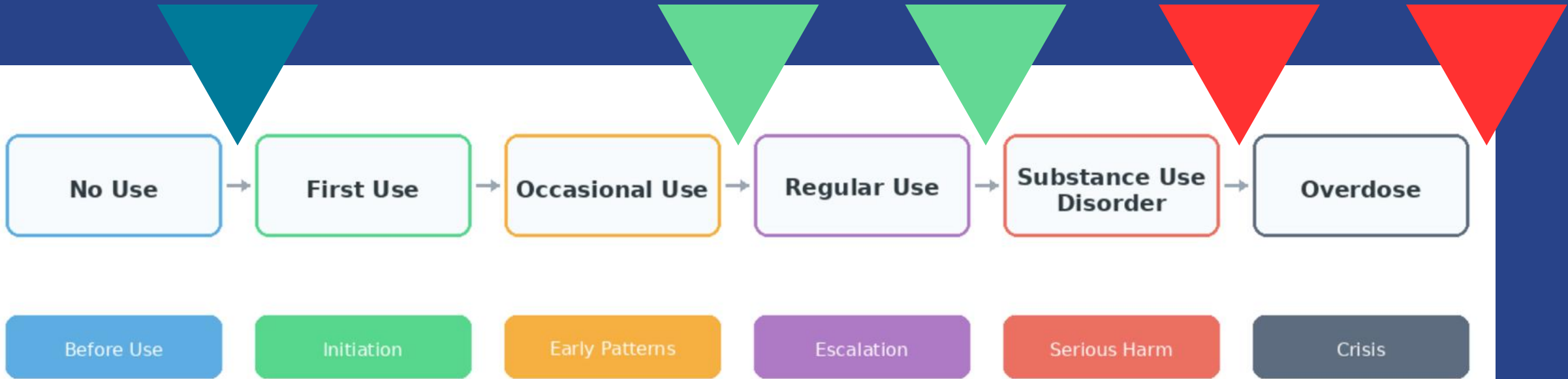
Understanding Prevention



When we talk about the opioid epidemic –
what comes to mind when you think of
prevention?



IMPACT
International Migration Partnership for Africa's Growth and Transformation





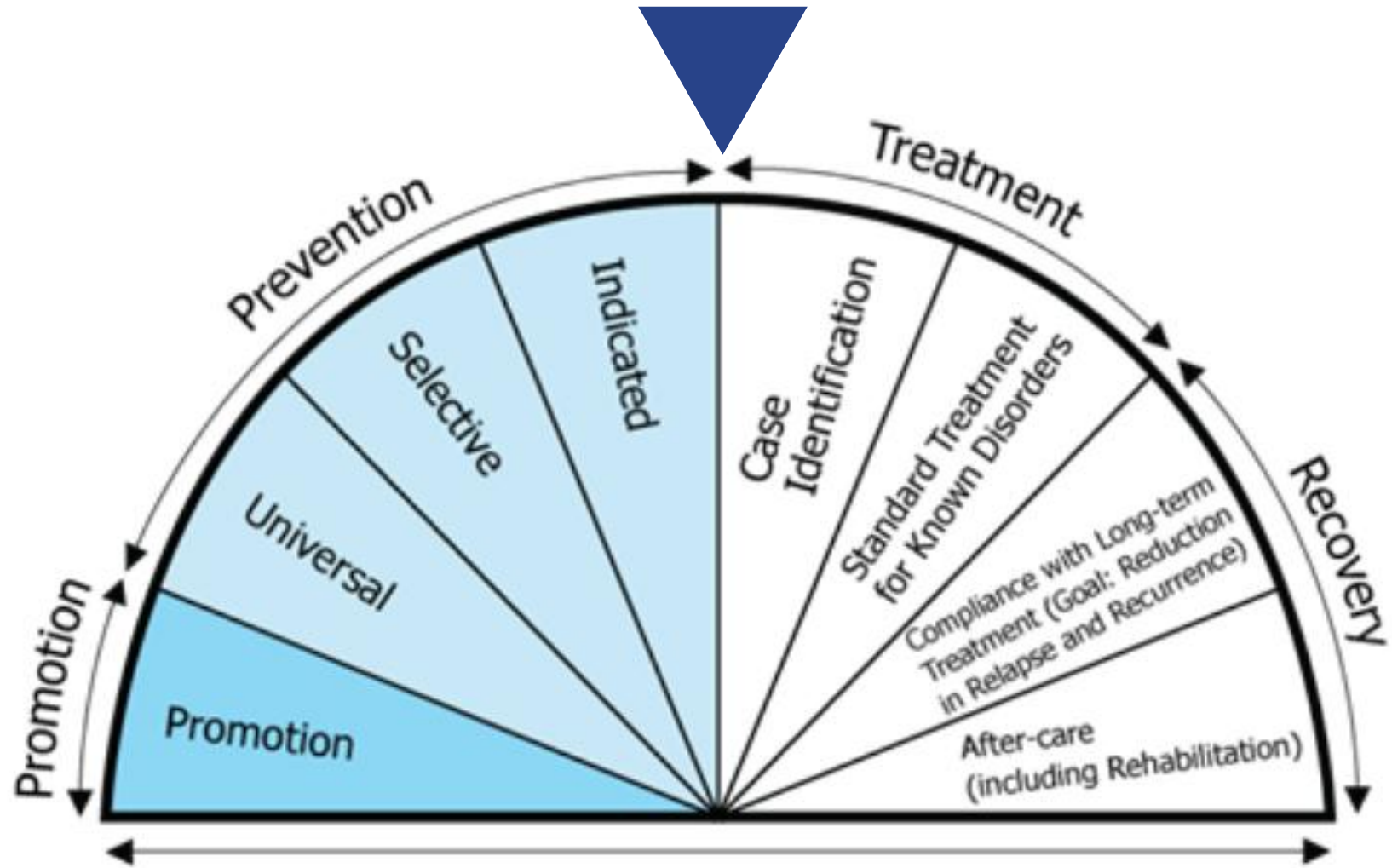
Prevention Definition

Prevention is the proactive approach to reducing risks associated with substance misuse through education, community engagement, policies to build supportive environments that foster healthier choices.



OPIOID USE DISORDER DOES NOT ALWAYS START WITH OPIOIDS





PROMOTION → PREVENTION → EARLY INTERVENTION → TREATMENT → RECOVERY



Prevention is Public Health

Public health is essential for creating **healthier communities** where people can thrive and be healthy and youth can be substance free







Intervention & Treatment = Individuals





Prevention = Populations



Healthy Environments for Healthy
Communities



Understanding the Pathway to Opioid Misuse...

Early substance use can create significant obstacles on the path to healthy development. Understanding these factors is crucial for effective prevention strategies in communities.





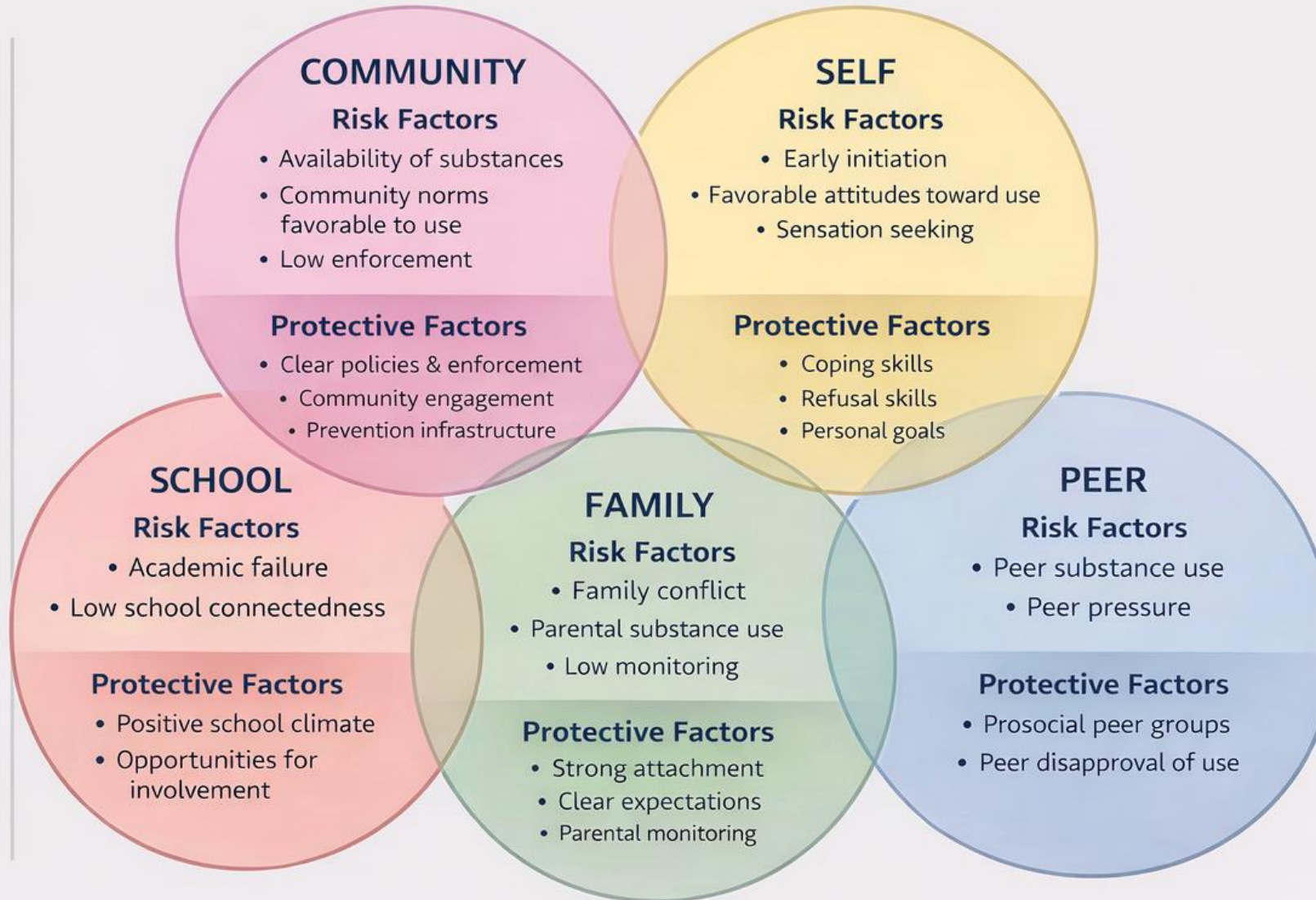
Risk & Protective Factors

Understanding the balance of risk and protective factors is crucial for effective prevention strategies. These elements significantly influence individual and community resilience against substance use.



Risk & Protective Factors for Youth Substance Use

Multiple
levels
influence
substance
use risk





Prevention is Public Health In Action



A scenic landscape of rolling hills at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. In the foreground, a wooden fence runs across the frame. A large, leafless tree stands in the middle ground, and a smaller, green tree is visible to its right. The background shows rolling hills under a blue sky with light clouds.

KY Success Stories in Prevention

Floyd County Family Support

Floyd County emphasizes protective factors through its family resource centers, providing essential services and support to strengthen community ties and promote healthier family dynamics.





Graves County

In Graves County, a **youth-led coalition** is prioritizing evidence-based programs to empower young voices, fostering collaboration and community engagement in prevention efforts.





Marion County Initiatives

LOKO Nights provide safe spaces for youth to engage in positive activities, promoting healthy social norms and fostering community connections in Marion County.

LOKO NIGHT
HOLD ON TIGHT!
★ **LOKO NIGHT IS GOING COUNTRY!** ★

MARION COUNTY MCECS EVENT CENTER & SPORTSPLEX
SIGN SPORTSPLEX WAIVER HERE
SIGN MECHANICAL BULL WAIVER HERE

FOR MARION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ONLY!

MECHANICAL BULL
LAST RIDER STANDING CONTEST!

PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDER WILL BE THERE FOR QUESTIONS AND TO COACH RIDERS!

★ RODEO GAMES & ACTIVITIES ★	★ DRESS UP CONTEST ★
MECHANICAL BULL 1ST PLACE WINNER GETS \$100	COME IN YOUR BEST ★ RODEO ATTIRE! ★
MECHANICAL BULL RUNNER UP GETS \$50	WINNER GETS \$50
BARREL RACING WINNER GETS \$50	BOARD GAMES, CORNHOLE, AND MORE!
RELAY RACING WINNER GETS \$50	

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH ★ 7:00 PM - 11:30 PM ★

MARION COUNTY EVENT CENTER & SPORTSPLEX

SPONSORED BY:



SAFE FUN FOR TEENS!
LET'S GET ALONG & HAVE A BLAST!



Pike County Programs

Pike County implements **evidence-based school programs** that focus on prevention strategies, providing structured support and resources to empower students and promote healthier choices.





Community-Level Strategies

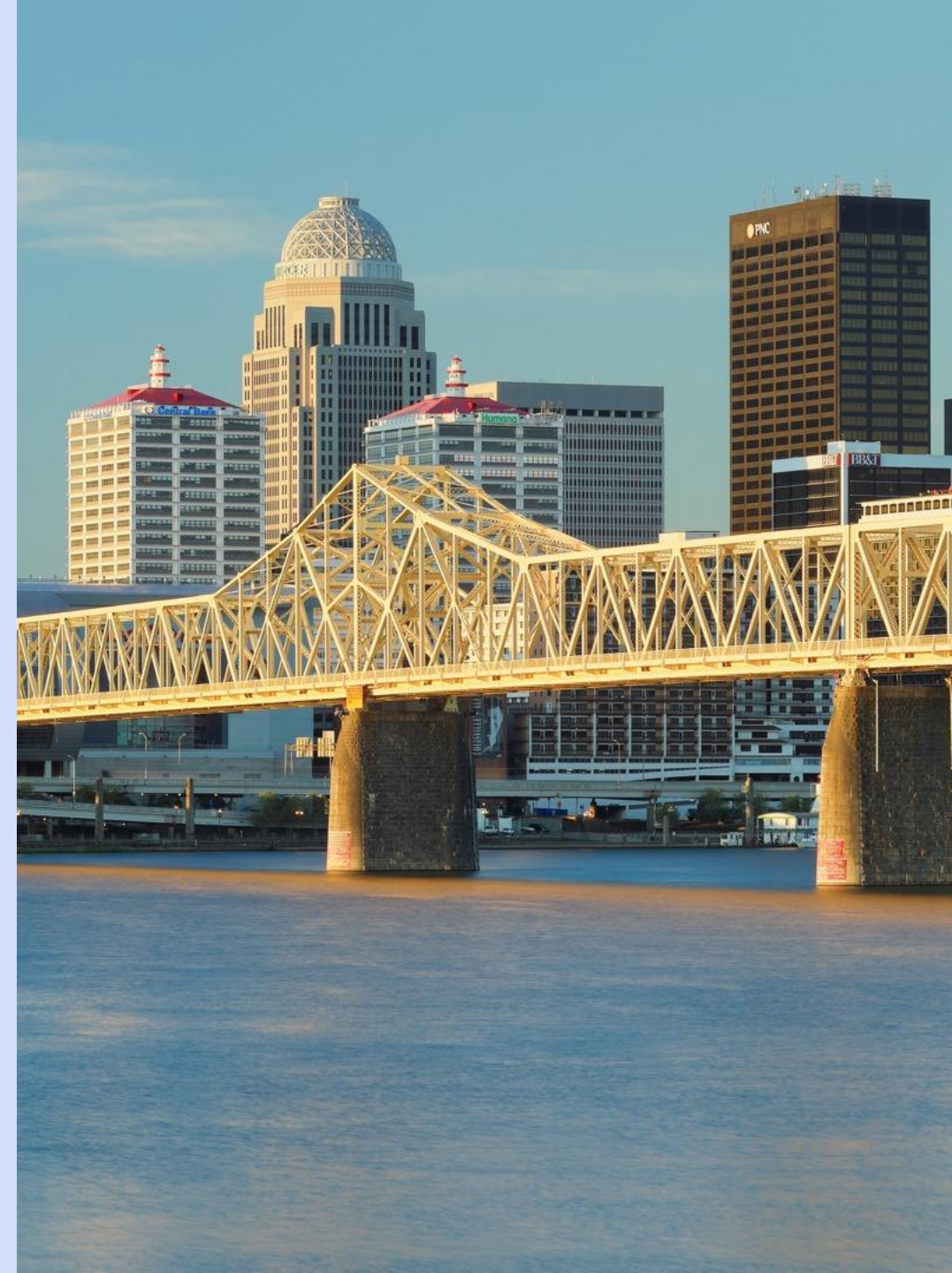
Effective prevention requires a multifaceted approach that includes **policy changes**, systems enhancements, and environmental adjustments to promote healthier communities and reduce opioid risks.





Prevention as a System

Prevention is a dynamic system involving **collaborative efforts**, where communities engage to reduce opioid risk and enhance overall health through interconnected strategies and support networks.





Science of Prevention

Focusing on **data, evaluation, and alignment** is crucial for effective prevention strategies. By leveraging these areas, we can create stronger community health outcomes.





Working Together

Collaborating across sectors
**strengthens community
prevention efforts.** By uniting
resources and expertise, we can
effectively address opioid risks
and build healthier environments
for all.





A well meaning
group of People Is
NOT enough -
Communities that
make a difference
follow the science

An aerial photograph of a lush green forest. A waterfall is visible in the center-left, cascading down a rocky ledge. The sky above is filled with soft, wispy clouds, transitioning from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**In every community, there is work to be done.
In every heart, there is the power to do it.**

-Marianne Williamson



Thank you!

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KACo Opioid Solutions Learning Opportunities



Check out KACo's resource library for continuing education opportunities highlighting how counties are using their opioid settlement funds in innovative, effective, and sustainable ways. You'll find best practices on topics such as youth prevention, peer support, access to treatment, quick response teams, and more. Stay tuned for new resources and updates!

Opioid Settlement Resource Library

A white question mark is centered on a white rectangular card, which is slightly tilted and set against a dark purple background.

Frequently Asked Questions

A photograph of the Kentucky State Capitol building, showing its grand architecture and central dome, with a paved walkway leading towards it.

Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission

A photograph of a classical statue of Lady Justice, holding a pair of scales and a sword, set against a dark purple background.

Settlement Agreements and Exhibits

A photograph of a laptop displaying a webinar interface with the word "WEBINAR" on the screen, next to a smartphone and some papers.

Archived Trainings and Recordings

A photograph of several people in a meeting, with their faces obscured by white boxes, holding up documents or papers.

Tools, Templates and Planning

A photograph of a hand reaching out to help another person, set against a dark purple background.

Approved Uses and Resources

Opioid Settlement Advisor



- **Guidance on opioid settlement use**
- **Review of allowable expenses**
- **Support for long-term and strategic planning**
- **Access to templates and standardized forms**
- **Assistance with mandatory reporting requirements**
- **Review of best practices and peer examples**
- **Training and education opportunities**
- **Referrals to qualified practitioners and subject-matter experts**

Lauren Carr

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Questions?

