
TOWN OF NORTH EAST
Opioid Restitution Fund Targeted Abatement Grant Program
Local Abatement Plan

Organization Applying for Grant: Town of North East

Point of Contact:

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Position: Director of Finance

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Please select the Opioid Restitution Fund provision which most accurately represent the primary focus/foci of the local abatement plan (you may identify more than one).

- (i) Improving access to medications proven to prevent or reverse an overdose;
- (ii) Supporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-risk populations;
- (iii) Increasing access to medications that support recovery from substance use disorders;
- (iv) Expanding the Fleroin Coordinator Program, including for administrative expenses;
- (v) Expanding access to crisis beds and residential treatment services for adults and minors;
- (vi) Expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, and crisis stabilization centers;
- (vii) Supporting the behavioral health crisis hotline;

X (viii) Organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns to prevent opioid use, including for administrative expenses;

- (ix) Enforcing the laws regarding opioid prescriptions and sales, including for administrative expenses;
- (x) Research regarding and training for substance use treatment and overdose prevention, including for administrative expenses; and
- (xi) Supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions for overdose prevention and substance use treatment

I. PLAN SUMMARY *The plan summary must provide a clear summary of the projects to be funded and the activities that will be conducted in service of the Local Abatement Plan, and clearly tie to the provisions of the legislation identified above.*

Youth Empowerment Source (YES), was founded in 2014 and is committed to building stronger communities by inspiring and equipping children, youth and families to become life-long learners. Youth Empowerment Source's Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition aims to develop youth leaders in substance use prevention to influence their schools, homes and neighborhoods. The Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition serves as a prevention and leadership training program for high school youth. Youth credit this program with changing their perception of substance use disorders and providing them with a platform to share prevention knowledge, messaging and training that benefits students throughout Cecil County. Our budget request focuses primarily on staffing for the program, leadership training, and a small amount for incentives.

II. PLAN PROBLEM STATEMENT *The problem statement section describes why the plan is needed and identifies the most significant issues, problems, trends, or opportunities that will be addressed by the Local Abatement Plan.*

The opioid epidemic has hit Cecil County particularly hard. Because of its unique location on I 95 halfway between Philadelphia and Baltimore, the county has been designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) by the Federal Government. A county-wide needs assessment done in 2022 shows that the top concerns of residents are substance abuse, lack of leisure time activities, and homelessness. At the same time, residents identify mental health services, substance use and abuse prevention and treatment services, and gathering and entertaining options for youth as Cecil county's most pressing needs.

Poverty is certainly a factor in the above-state average numbers we are seeing reflected in all areas of youth substance use. Twenty-four percent of students in sixth through eighth grades who are on Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) miss 20+ days of school annually, compared to those not on FARMS with an absence rate of just 8.1%. That rate jumps in high-school to thirty eight percent of FARMS students missing 20+ days, versus non-FARMS students with a 20+ day absence rate of only 15.6%. Clearly, the impact of poverty on student attendance is significant in Cecil County, and we know that students who do not attend school regularly have higher rates of risk-taking behaviors. In the county seat, Elkton, the rate of rental properties soared from

45%-75% between 2013-2018. School populations have become more transient, and homelessness is a significant issue.

Healthy People 2020 notes that the effects of substance abuse are cumulative, significantly contributing to costly social, physical, mental, and public health problems. These issues include teen pregnancy, HIV AIDS, crime and violence, motor vehicle crashes, suicides, and other concerns. Many of our students have parents who struggle with substance use disorder, some of who are relapsing as a result of the stresses of quarantine and the Coronavirus.

During the 2023/2024 school year the youth coalition had over 3400 students engaged, across 5 high schools!

Cecil students need and benefit from both sides of Youth Coalition work. Those youth who choose to take part in activities receive the benefits of alternative activities, reducing their opportunity and likelihood to experiment/use illicit drugs. Youth who don't opt to engage directly are still impacted through the Public Service Announcements and Billboards created by their peers. Hundreds of youth are taking part in meetings and activities. Thousands are impacted through peer messaging.

III. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES *Program Goals and Objectives should define the central aim and principal goals of the Local Abatement Plan that will be addressed by the project activities, and clearly tie to the provisions of the legislation identified.*

Goal #1: Increase and expand participation in prevention work by Cecil County youth

Objective: From September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 all five (5) county high schools will hold Youth Led prevention club meetings during the school year.

Goal #2: Increase prevention training opportunities for youth leaders in Cecil County

Objective: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 approximately ten (10) students will apply and be selected to attend CADCA's Mid Year Training Institute (July '24) and National Forum (Feb '25) to receive training on the most recent prevention strategies available.

Objective: From September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, expand participation in the Youth Leadership Summit for youth leaders in Cecil County by increasing attendance.

CADCA training equips youth attendees to lead their school based prevention clubs, sponsored by Drug Free Cecil. Last year 650 high school students attended prevention clubs across the county. Students from the North East area primarily attend North East High, while some are districted to Perryville and Rising Sun High schools. More than 3,500 students received Peer to Peer Prevention lessons/activities/events as a result of the CADCA training our youth received. Each year youth are trained in social determinants of health, how trauma leads to addiction, the value of NARCAN as a harm reduction strategy, refusal skills, youth athletes and opioid use, and more. All of these topics relate directly Opioid Use Prevention.

The adults attending are either staff of Youth Empowerment Source, who work daily in youth prevention, or prevention staff from Cecil County Public Schools, School Resource Officers from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, or Cecil County Health Department. These leaders also assist with leading the annual Youth Leadership Summit, held at Sandy Hill Conference Center in North East, Md. This event serves more than 150 youth over several days in a local Prevention and Leadership focused conference.

Incentives may be logoed items for student leaders such as: draw string bags, t shirts, pens, pencils. These are used at community events and Youth Leadership Summit. Last year we had 12,796 volunteer hours logged, primarily by youth volunteers. Incentives are used to build community and a sense of belonging. (For example- when you see a stranger wearing your favorite sports team t shirt you feel an immediate sense of connection, that you share something in common. When youth see other youth in the community wearing Drug Free Cecil gear they see that they are not alone in their choice to remain substance free. This psychological principle is called "enclothed cognition" and suggests the clothing we wear can influence our decisions, thoughts and behaviors. The logos we wear embody the qualities and values associated with that brand. In this case- the value of remaining drug free!).

IV. PLAN PROGRAM MEASUREMENT/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

What you will use to measure (a) the effectiveness of the plan's support of the selected Goal/Strategy, (b) how it fills a gap in the region, and (c) how it serves its intended demographic. These measures may be quantitative (numeric) and qualitative (descriptive). These performance measures must be reported annually by July 31.

Goal	Strategy	Measure of Effectiveness	How it fills a gap	How it serves intended demographic
Goal #1: Increase and expand participation in prevention work by Cecil County youth	Strategy: Hold Youth Led Prevention Clubs at county high schools	Goal # of club meetings held - 7 per high school (total of 35 annually) Goal # of students attending club meetings - 8 per school, per meeting (total of 280 annually)	There is no other peer to peer substance use prevention program in Cecil County.	This project is for youth, led by youth.
Goal #2: Increase prevention training opportunities for youth leaders in Cecil County	Strategy: Attend National Youth Prevention Trainings	Goal # of attendees - 10 x 2 conferences, total of 20	This is the only opportunity for youth to receive Nationally accredited prevention training and leadership investment	This strategy serves high school youth, our intended demographic.
Goal #2: Increase prevention training opportunities for youth leaders in Cecil County	Strategy: Increase participation in the Youth Leadership Summit for youth leaders in Cecil County.	Goal # in attendance - 75	This is the only local Youth Leadership Summit offered to 7-12 graders.	Students are selected based on interest in prevention efforts, participation in prevention clubs and activities and desire to develop leadership skills.

V. PLAN TIMELINE*Enter project information as necessary*

Goal(s)	Key tasks/activities	Person(s) responsible	Progress Measurement	Begin date	End date
Goal #1: Increase and expand participation in prevention work by Cecil County youth	Hold youth led prevention club meetings at high schools	Youth Advisor-Ed Motton Youth Advisor Aide-Mason Watters	Success will be measured by # of club meetings, club activities and attendance.	Sept. 4, 2024	June 5, 2025
Goal #2: Increase prevention training opportunities for youth leaders in Cecil County	Attend National Youth Prevention Trainings, increase participation in the Youth Leadership Summit for youth leaders in Cecil County.	Youth Advisor- Ed Motton Youth Advisor Aide-Mason Watters	Success will be measured by# of students attending trainings.	July 1, 2024	June 30, 2025

VI. SPEND PLAN DESCRIPTION *Detailed explanation of planned expenses*

Budget item		Funds Requested	Justification
Salaries & Wages	Youth Advisor	\$5,000	10% of annual salary of \$50,000
	Youth Advisor Aide	\$2,600	10% of annual wages of \$26,000
Training & Development	CADCA Mid Year	\$5,000	10% of overall trip expenses of \$50,000
	CADCA Forum	\$5,000	10% of overall trip expenses of \$50,000
Contracted Services	Youth Leadership Summit	\$3,000	10% of event cost of \$30,000
Materials & Supplies	Incentives	\$3,000	20% of annual incentive costs for high school prevention clubs and activities
Total Request		\$23,600	The Town of North East will supplement the Grant resources

This request reflects 10% of our costs in these line items. (We did include 20% of incentive costs since NEHS is one of 5 county high schools.)

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all the information provided herein is true and correct.

IX. AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL SIGNATURE:

Date: June 12, 2024

Printed Name: Beth Creek

Title: Executive Director YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SOURCE (YES)