



Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Program Spotlight

Community Catalyst Spotlight

In July of 2022, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction [announced](#) an investment in 37 community organizations through Community Catalyst Grants. The \$54.8 million provided in these grants included \$22.3 million of local and grantee match dollars, as well as \$32.5 million in federal funds. The goal of these grants is to enhance the quality and access of mental health prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services across the state. Through this funding, each of the 37 grantees are working to bridge gaps in the care continuum and improve mental health and substance use disorder outcomes in their communities. You are encouraged to read a story from one of the Community Catalyst grantees below and celebrate in their success.

Details on all 37 projects funded by the Community Catalyst grants can be found [here](#).

Name of Grantee

Battles in communities often entail multiple enemies that require a variety of superheroes with different superpowers. As a result of DMHA's Community Catalyst funding, Coalition heroes and community stakeholders in LaPorte County have increased their superpowers to build capacity and combat multiple fronts through the development and integration of Crisis Intervention Teams, Trauma-Informed Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, Mobile Integrated Response Teams, a Suicide-Overdose Fatality Review Team and a Behavioral Health Task Force.

Under the auspices of the LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership and in collaboration with HealthLinc FQHC, Swanson Center, CMHC, Indiana University Northwest's School of Social Work and TechServ, our Catalyst Vision represents a "trauma-responsive," cross-sector collaboration. Stakeholders including Law enforcement, mental health/ substance professionals, government, advocates, and those with a lived experience are working together to problem-solve and orchestrate a culturally responsive and equitable system intended to address policy, practice, barriers to access, and linkages to care.

Unique to LaPorte County, is a multi-jurisdictional Crisis Intervention Team. This cadre of CIT certified officers from throughout the county represent a paradigm shift in mental health and substance use response and are indicative of changes in policy and practice so that police are used strategically, jails are not the default location for mental health/substance use interventions, safety is improved during enforcement encounters for everyone involved, and trauma is reduced for those in crisis via links to behavioral health. Qualitative post training evaluation feedback from CIT officers shared "this is what we deal with every day, all officers should go through this training." The intent is to have a total of 120 participants with representation from every department and every shift certified in the 40-hour evidence-based CIT program during the Catalyst funding cycle.



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Despite designation as a HIDTA, Law Enforcement staffing shortages, designated a Mental Health Provider Shortage Area, suicide rates higher than state and national averages, LaPorte County is seeing promising outcomes. These outcomes are indicated in 62% of the MIRT participant who are now in the

workforce, and 785 who have completed 6 months that have remained abstinent as well as Coroner data reflecting overdose deaths have decreased from 56 in 2021 to 50 in 2022 and deaths by suicide have decreased from 31 in 2021 to 22 in 2022.

Catalyst efforts and outcomes have gained national recognition as a potential model for replication and led to selection to present at the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America's CADCA's National Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. this past February; as well as selection to participate in the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's 2023-2024 Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented, Equity-Focused Systems (TIROES) National Learning Community cohort.

For more information contact Catalyst Program Director, Dr. Micki Webb, DSW, LCSW at lpclcc@gmail.com