



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

Grantee Spotlight

Huntington County Community Catalyst Grant Recipient Restorative Residential Work Release and Transitional Housing

By Leslie Rentschler, Executive Director Huntington County Community Corrections

On February 27, 2012, the Huntington County Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance to establish and operate a Community Corrections Program which means “a community-based program that provides preventive services, services to offenders, services to persons charged with a crime or an act of delinquency, services to persons diverted from the criminal or delinquency process, services to persons sentenced to imprisonment, or services to victims of crime or delinquency.” The establishment of Community Corrections by constituted members of the community also now referred to as the Advisory Board worked collaboratively to develop a mission and vision for the agency to implement unique alternatives to incarceration.

The vision of Huntington County Community Corrections is to provide meaningful, affordable, cost-effective alternatives to the offender population that instills individual accountability while redirecting behaviors using evidence-based practices to provide for successful re-integration into society. The mission of Huntington County Community Corrections is to provide the local court system with alternative sentencing and to make the community a safer place through a balanced system of evidence-based practices and services to the offenders. Huntington County Community Corrections strives to provide a safe environment, effective management of offenders, and worthwhile programs for offenders that will assist them in life while providing them with an opportunity to maintain their family structure.



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In order to illicit change in the offender population an understanding of the unique challenges facing their success whether it be in the realm of mental health, poverty, drug addiction, lack of education, disability, trauma, or homelessness has to be considered in the planning, development, and implementation of services. A person-centered planning approach is taken to assess risk and needs, determine intrinsic motivation, target interventions, skill train, increase positive reinforcement, create support in community for post release, measuring data for effectiveness and providing measurement feedback. These principles of effective intervention create the foundation to support the mission of Community Corrections. The vision for programming includes Pretrial Services, Day Reporting, Electronic Home Detention, Alcohol Detection programming, Community Service, Restorative Residential Work Release and Transitional Housing.

In July 2021 Community Corrections was given the honor to collaborate with the Sisters of Victory Noll to acquire their training campus to implement the residential component of the vision. This opportunity provided a space for the unique model of supervision with services for the residents to attend treatment with Parkview/Park Center on one campus. This “warm handoff” approach greatly diminishes the time from the offense to treatment addressing co-occurring disorders of the offender population under supervision. In July of 2022 Huntington County’s receipt of the Community Catalyst Grant inserted a foundational piece to launching programming that provides the avenue for offenders whose behaviors need to be redirected in a way that encourage personal growth, turning vision into action to make a profound impact on Huntington County.