

2025



COMMUNITY COALITION COHORT

A New Vision for CommUnity Across WV

2025





We're excited to introduce **C3** (Community Coalition Cohort)—a new collaboration between **Hope in Action Alliance, Inc.** (HIAA) and **Community Connections, Inc.** (CCI)—to continue supporting coalitions in West Virginia.

Through an earlier subcontract with CCI, HIAA proudly supported a statewide cohort of coalitions over a five-month pilot program in 2025. Participating coalitions, representing every region of West Virginia, designed community projects grounded in proven prevention strategies, shared resources, and expanded their knowledge through collaborative learning.

Each month, the cohort came together to share “glows and grows,” explore practical solutions to challenges, and receive personalized support from HIAA. This cohort fostered meaningful connections, encouraged innovative approaches, and helped coalitions put prevention strategies into action. CCI made their expertise available to the cohort as needed.

Counties represented in the 2025 pilot cohort included Barbour, Berkeley, Calhoun, Jefferson, Lincoln, Mingo, Morgan, Nicholas, Summers, Tyler, and Wetzel.

Looking ahead, a follow-up release this winter will highlight the cohort's findings from pre- and post-surveys, project reports, and outline plans for 2026.



Project Summary

The coalition selected a youth-led community garden expansion as its annual focus, partnering to grow an existing garden and plan a future site. Planning meetings identified maintenance and growth needs, and permission was secured to install a blessing box and a Narcan box at the current garden site, with construction of the boxes underway.

A countywide mapping project was launched to identify existing blessing box locations and explore new sites. Collaboration with local prevention programs helped build and prepare additional blessing and Narcan boxes for placement throughout the county.



Events/Meetings

6



Event Check-Ins

546+

facebook.com/brightfuturesbc

WV Prevention Region: 4



Project Summary

The coalition promoted youth engagement and prevention through creative, community-driven activities. A West Virginia-themed resource fair launched the “App Up” program, featuring a symbolic fingerprint art project, family participation, and seven community vendors, drawing 79 attendees.

The “App Up” program engaged 30 youth in interactive prevention activities and encouraged teen collaboration to plan future projects, building a foundation for ongoing youth leadership and community involvement in Calhoun County.



Events/Meetings

5



Event Check-Ins

120+

calhounfrn.org

WV Prevention Region: 3



Project Summary

The Youth Photo Voice Project was launched to engage young people in prevention through creative expression. Initial planning established the project's focus, recruited youth participants, and built partnerships with local programs to support the formation of a Drug-Free Youth Coalition.

The project later expanded to include students from additional counties and a local university. Participant lists were finalized, supplies were secured, and activities launched with multiple student cohorts actively engaged. The project continues to advance youth engagement and strengthen community prevention efforts across the region.



Events/Meetings

6



Event Check-Ins

546+

jeffersonberkeleyalliance.com

WV Prevention Region: 2



Project Summary

The coalition focused on reducing food insecurity and developing transitional housing opportunities within the community. Partnerships were strengthened to expand food distribution services and provide greater support to families, particularly those affected by flooding. Additional sponsorships and emergency assistance were pursued to enhance food access and address urgent needs.

At the same time, planning began for a transitional housing initiative aimed at improving long-term stability for local residents. Collaborative discussions explored ways to align resources, strengthen community networks, and build sustainable solutions that support both immediate and ongoing needs.



Events/Meetings

21



Event Check-Ins

560+

facebook.com/groups/769584729731656/

WV Prevention Region: 5



Project Summary

Efforts focused on raising awareness, engaging families, and providing prevention education throughout the community. By attending local events and sharing resources, the coalition worked to create a positive environment that supports prevention and well-being.

Partnerships with community organizations expanded youth programs and family engagement, while presentations on evidence-based strategies and current drug trends reinforced the coalition's commitment to youth empowerment, family support, and healthier communities.



Events/Meetings

9



Event Check-Ins

490+

facebook.com/MingoPreventionCoalition

WV Prevention Region: 5



NICHOLAS
INTERVENTION COALITION

Project Summary

The initiative in Nicholas County focused on bringing critical prevention and wellness resources directly to the community. Resource boxes stocked with hygiene items, food, overdose reversal tools, and local service information were created and mapped for easy access, with local partners helping to restock and maintain them.

To address funding and engagement challenges, the team implemented signage in local shops and organized a youth club day at the high school. The project is now ready for full implementation, supporting community wellness and prevention efforts.



Events/Meetings

30



Event Check-Ins

1,380

nicwv.org

WV Prevention Region: 6



Project Summary

The coalition worked to implement a Breakthrough Addiction mural project and engaging the community in harm reduction and substance use prevention. The mural design and text were finalized, and outreach to local property owners secured a visible location to maximize community impact.

Challenges with initial mural locations required identifying an alternative site, demonstrating the coalition's adaptability and dedication to creative prevention initiatives and community involvement. These efforts laid the groundwork for ongoing public awareness activities.



Events/Meetings

6



Event Check-Ins

50+

reachhfr.org

WV Prevention Region: 6



Project Summary

The focus was on engaging the community and kickstarting the Quick Response Team (QRT) initiative. The coalition played a key role in starting the conversation about developing a QRT, selecting it as a primary project and laying the groundwork for future implementation.

While another group ultimately took the lead in formally creating the QRT, the coalition continued advancing the initiative by hosting meetings with key stakeholders and planning presentations for county leaders. Members were introduced to the mobile crisis response team and planned participation in upcoming community events to increase public awareness and strengthen partnerships as agreements are finalized.



Events/Meetings

5



Event Check-Ins

370+

facebook.com/tylerprevention

WV Prevention Region: 3



Project Summary

The coalition dedicated efforts to creating a lasting community garden in Hundred, distributing free plants and grow bags to encourage summer gardening even during a pause in funding. While securing a suitable site faced delays due to fencing needs, the team remained committed to making the project feasible and accessible.

Grant resources were awarded and later secured, allowing the coalition to clear the designated lot and begin preparations for spring planting. These efforts highlight the coalition's resilience and dedication to building a community space that promotes healthy living and strengthens local engagement.



Events/Meetings

28



Event Check-Ins

870+

youthservicessystem.org/page/3/31/15/wetzel-county-substance-use-prevention-coalition

WV Prevention Region: 1



Project Summary

The coalition concentrated on planning a policy forum to engage elected officials in substance use disorder education and evidence-based treatment strategies. Goals included sharing community partner expertise, highlighting best practices, and producing a video featuring individuals in treatment and recovery, with invitations and reminders sent to officials and coalition members.

A mock policy forum was held to gather feedback, which informed updates to the presentation and planning for a larger forum next year. Future efforts will include one-on-one engagement with elected officials to refine timing and maximize impact, continuing the coalition's work in substance use education and policy advocacy.



Events/Meetings

3



Event Check-Ins

133

wecarewv.com

WV Prevention Region: 2