

Terms

LCCs were first formed in the 1980s to address substance abuse issues at the local level and exist by statute in all 92 Counties, under the auspices of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) with the mission of reducing the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse and addictions among adults and children in Indiana. Part of the strategy focused on providing resources at the state and local levels to support drug prevention, treatment, and other criminal justice efforts. Towards this goal, and to help shore up the LCCs, the Drug-Free Community Fund was established in 1990 from fees collected by the courts from local drug interdiction fees. Each LCC is responsible for the annual development of a Comprehensive County Plan (CCP) that includes an analysis of the County data, prioritizing specific substance categories, and strategies to address the identified concerns. Upon the state approval of the annual "CCP" plan, drug interdiction funds collected by the courts are by statute equally re-distributed back into the local community in the Categories of Prevention, Treatment Justice, and Administration.

The LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership (LCC- aka Coalition) is identified by state statute as the Local Coordinating Council or (LCC) with a mission that aims to prevent or reduce substance use and promote optimal mental health among youth and adults. The organization is a 501c3 composed of multi-sector volunteer community stakeholders that include Community Mental Health, Health & Mental health providers, government, court personnel, schools, social service organizations, law enforcement, parents, and members of the recovery community. The organization is responsible for the analysis of County data, the development of the County Plan and the redistribution of the fees collected by the LaPorte County courts in the form of peer reviewed mini grants that support substance efforts of local organizations. The most recent plan reflects a total of \$59,176 in Drug Free Community funds collected by the courts from Apr. 1, 2024-Mar 31, 2025 and an allocation of only \$14,794 in each category of Prevention, Treatment, Justice, and Administration. Because of the limited funding available for Administration, the need to pay rent for office/meeting space, and insurance, the majority of administrative services is in a volunteer capacity and Coordination is pro bono or when possible covered from other funding.

Funding is distributed in mini-grants via a peer reviewed grant application process that prioritizes evidence-based programs. Grantees include:

- Dunebrook Child Abuse Prevention & Support- Nurturing Parenting Group for Parents in Recovery at no cost to participants
- Open Door Adolescent Health Clinic at Michigan City High School- Universal Screenings and Clinical Services when indicated at no cost to participants
- W.A.I.R- We All In Recovery- Certified Peer Counselling at no cost to participants
- Youth Service Bureau-Teen Court-Ripple Effects for entry level juvenile offenders at no cost to participants LaPorte County Problem Solving Drug Court