

Special Initiatives

Recovery Residence Leadership Initiative

Despite our designation as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), LaPorte County does not have a Certified Recovery Residence, while neighboring counties have several. Although Community stakeholders have discussed the need for a Recovery Residence for many years, the initiative never gained traction until efforts were mobilized as the *Recovery Residence Initiative*, under the guidance of the LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership. The Recovery Residence Leadership Team includes representatives of Tonn & Blank Construction, Swanson Center Community Mental Health, Health Linc FQHC, 3Twenty Recovery Hub, W.A.I.R, Problem Solving Court, Adult Probation, Local Government officials and members of the Recovery Community. The LCC Director has authored grant proposals pro bono and has secured funding commitments of \$1.5M toward the total construction cost of \$3.2M from LaPorte County Council (\$750,000) and the Health Foundation of LaPorte (\$750,000) and submitted an Opioid Match grant to the Indiana Department of Mental Health and Addiction that we are hoping for a favorable notice of award. Tonn & Blank has pledged in-kind contributions of architectural and engineering fees, reduction in construction costs and donations from trade unions projected to total \$1.M helping to bring plans for a state certified Level III home for adult males for up to 2 years begins to take shape. Three20 Recovery has pledged 100 hours of Peer Recovery support.

CIT- Crisis Intervention Team As part of Indiana Department of Mental Health Catalyst funding, LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership, together with the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office and Swanson Center led efforts to have LaPorte County as the only county in Indiana with a multi-jurisdictional Crisis Intervention Team. Under the coordination and leadership of Micki Webb, LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership Sergeant James Lear, LaPorte County Sheriff's Office, and Katie, Jasnieski, Swanson Center, we have trained/certified 121 individuals in CIT. Every law enforcement jurisdiction now has representatives trained and certified in the 40 hour evidence-based CIT, making law enforcement better equipped to respond to substance use and mental health crises. In August, 2025, Indiana was the only state specially recognized at the CIT International Conference, and it is particularly validating that LaPorte County contributed significantly to that national recognition award.

SOFR- Suicide Overdose Fatality Review Team- The SOFR team is chaired by the Drug Free Partnership Coordinator and is modeled and operates under a "North Star" shared goal of reducing suicide and overdose deaths. Core principles are that suicide and overdose deaths are preventable and substance use is a chronic, treatable disease. The SOFR team meets monthly and uses multisector data to inform response strategies, share understanding, optimize community capacity, share accountability, build working relationships between local stakeholders on suicide and overdose prevention, inform local suicide and overdose prevention strategy and recommend policies, programs, laws, etc. to prevent suicide and overdose deaths.