

**NEW
BUSINESS**



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

April 9, 2026

Claiborne County Commission

Re: Medical Examiner Investigators 2026

Commissioner,

There has been some discussion about the newly trained Medical Examiner Investigators (MEI's) and their role in the ME process. Newly trained MEI's will be called out on a rolling basis to the first available to assist in death investigations. Their role is to travel to the scene of a decedent to gather information surrounding the individual's death. MEI's are tasked with being an advocate for the deceased by approaching each instance from an unbiased position to gather facts, take photographs, what to look for on the scene, report writing in addition to pronouncing an individual's time of death. Current MEI's who received training by the OSCME are:

Linell Baldwin	Ashley Harmon	Darek Shetterly
Amy Jo Bussell	Larry Hopkins	Sarah Turner
Timory Callaway	Brinley Johnston	Jacob Wiegman
Megan Centers	Amanda Jones	Robert Wilmoth, MD
Shanna Dishner	Brooke Lewelling	
Whitney Estep	Tyler Marcum	

While the MEI's are permitted to assist the ME with many investigatory tasks, the ME is the only individual who can write and sign a death certificate.

If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Brooks".

Joe Brooks
County Mayor

Joe Brooks, County Mayor

1740 Main Street • P.O. Box • Tazewell, TN 37879 • office 423-626-5236 • fax 423-626-1661
www.ClaiborneCountyTN.gov • email countymayor@claibornecountytn.gov



End of Bill Life Cycle Report for 2024

Claiborne County Trustee

Denise Alexander

PO Box 72
Tazewell, TN 37879
Ph: 423-626-3275

Section I: Property Taxes (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Beginning Property Tax Aggregate	16,395,104.00
Public Utility	483,030.00
Assessor Additions & Increases	19,296.17
Assessor Deletions & Decreases	(19,994.57)
Bankruptcy / Appeal	0.00
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Total	16,877,435.60

Section II: Property Taxes Collected (County)

	Tax Year (2024)	
Taxes Collected	(16,651,755.98)	
Taxes Collected By C&M	0.00	
Refunds & Returned Checks	10,822.51	
Reversals / No New Money	1,313.57	
Personal Property Tax - Third Party	0.00	
Personal Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00	
Real Estate Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00	
Other Unpaid-NOT turned over to C&M	(237,815.70)	* this should be \$0.00, unless Rollbacks are retained by Trustee's Office
---	---	
Total	(16,877,435.60)	
---	---	
Balance Difference	0.00	

Section III: Unpaid Taxes (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Bankruptcy / Appeal	0.00
Total Personal Property Tax-Third Party	0.00
Total Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00
Other Unpaid-NOT turned over to C&M	(237,815.70)
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Total	(237,815.70)

Section IV: Final Summary (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Total Collected	(16,639,619.90)
Total Personal Property Tax-Third Party	0.00
Total Turned Over	0.00
Other Unpaid-NOT Turned Over	(237,815.70)
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Total	(16,877,435.60)
---	---
Percentage Filed in Court	1.409 %

I certify that this report has been examined by me and is to the best of my knowledge and belief a true and complete report of the End of Year Balances made in good faith for the 2024 fiscal year.

Denise Alexander

Denise Alexander, Claiborne County Trustee
March 16th 2026 12:33 pm

2024 Billing Date: 04-Oct-2024
Report Cutoff Date: 13-Mar-2026

FILED 3-16-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 1:25 pm DE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-028
COUNTY CLERK OFFICE SUPPLIES (BUDGET AMENDMENT)

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Clerk's office has recently had upgraded computer equipment and printers installed, and, in line with increasing costs, the price of the toner cartridges will cause a deficient in the monies available in office supplies for the remainder of the 2025-26 fiscal year, and,

WHEREAS, the clerk has monies available in an earmark title account generated by a fee reserved for the provision of services directly related to titling and registration, and so,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission that, in order to compensate the appropriate funding for the expenses, the following budget amendment be approved:

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
101-46835	\$ 3,885.96	
101-52500-435		\$ 3,885.96

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that this resolution is approved.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of April, 2026.

County Mayor

Nathan Epperson
Commissioner Sponsor

ATTEST:

County Clerk

FILED 3-25-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 19:15 pm -D.C.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 029

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Family Justice Center provides vital support and services to victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and related crises in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center receives generous contributions from citizens and organizations throughout the year to help sustain and enhance its important operations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution recognizes contributions received during 2026 and provides the necessary authority to appropriate these funds for expenditure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Claiborne County Commission must approve the following budget amendment in order for these monies to be expended:

Account Number	Description	Expense	Revenue
101-53600-499	Other Supplies & Materials	\$2,650	
101-48130	Contributions		\$2,650
Total		\$2,650	\$2,650

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that the above budget amendment is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.

JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Sherry McCreary
SPONSOR

ATTEST:

KAREN HURST, CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 8:50 am B.G.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-030

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR IMAGINATION LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION

WHEREAS, Claiborne County received a contribution for the Imagination Library from the Beta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Educators Foundation; and

WHEREAS, this contribution needs to be made to the Imagination Library; now

THEREFORE, the Claiborne County Commission must approve the following budget amendment in order for these monies to be expended.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-58400-316	Contributions	\$500	
101-48130	Contributions		\$500
Total		\$500	\$500

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026 that this resolution is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.

JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Sherry McCreary
SPONSOR

ATTEST:

KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 8:50am D-G

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-031

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TRUSTEE COMPUTERS

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Trustee has determined that the seven (7) existing computers in her office no longer receive Microsoft support; and

WHEREAS, Microsoft support is a mandatory requirement of the county's Information Systems (IS) Auditor; and

WHEREAS, this is an unforeseen requirement that was not anticipated when the current fiscal year budget was adopted; and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient funds remaining in the Trustee's equipment line to cover the necessary replacement cost of \$4,900; and

WHEREAS, the Trustee has requested that \$4,900 be transferred from unassigned fund balance into her equipment line so the purchase can be completed and compliance with audit requirements maintained;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission of Claiborne County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that the General Fund budget (Fund 101) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, be amended as follows:

		<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
101-39000	Unassigned Fund balance	\$4,900	
101-52400-719	Office Equipment		\$4,900

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that this resolution is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.

JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Quintin Rogers
SPONSOR

ATTEST:

KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: J. SO am D-6

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-032

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET OF CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the Finance Director position (Accounting & Budgeting, line 52100) was vacant for approximately three months prior to the current Director being hired; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director is currently the only salaried employee charged to salary line **52100-105**; and

WHEREAS, the County received an audit finding related to employees exceeding the maximum allowable compensatory time (100 hours); and

WHEREAS, transferring **\$17,500** from the Finance Director's salary line (52100-105) into the Accountants/Bookkeepers line (**52100-119**) will provide sufficient budget authority to pay out the compensatory time overages and resolve the audit finding; and

WHEREAS, this transfer is an internal realignment within the same department and does not increase the overall departmental or General Fund budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission of Claiborne County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that the General Fund budget (Fund 101) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, be amended as follows:

		<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
101-52100-105	Supervisor/Director	\$17,500	
101-52100-119	Accountants/Bookkeepers		\$17,500

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that this resolution is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.

JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ David Mundy (BW)
SPONSOR

ATTEST:

KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: [Signature] B.G.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 033
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY FOR EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) FUNDING AND
COMMITTING MATCHING FUNDS**

Sponsor: Mithcell Cosby

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administers Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to assist local governments and nonprofit organizations in providing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne County recognizes the need to support programs that prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, and assist in rapid rehousing efforts within the community; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne County desires to apply for ESG funding through THDA to support eligible activities that address homelessness and housing instability; and

WHEREAS, ESG program requirements mandate that recipients provide matching funds equal to or greater than the amount of ESG funds awarded; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne County is willing to commit local funds as required to support the successful implementation of ESG-funded activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session, that:

1. **Authorization to Apply**
The County Mayor is hereby authorized to prepare and submit an application to the Tennessee Housing Development Agency for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding on behalf of Claiborne County.
2. **Matching Funds Commitment**
Contingent upon approval of the ESG application and award of funds, Claiborne County hereby commits to providing matching funds in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000), in accordance with ESG program requirements. These matching funds may include cash contributions, in-kind services, or other eligible sources as permitted by THDA guidelines.
3. **Administration of Funds**
The County Mayor is authorized to execute all necessary documents, agreements, and assurances required by THDA and to administer the grant in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of April 2026.

ATTEST:

Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor

Karen Hurst, County Clerk

Submitted by: County Mayor

FILED
4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: J. W. [unclear] D.C.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 034
RESOLUTION FOR OPIOID ABATEMENT FUND LOCAL GRANT FUNDING FY27

Sponsor: Anthony Rowe

WHEREAS, an Opioid Board was formed by the Claiborne County Commission on the 18th day of March 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Opioid Board is to administer, oversee and recommend distribution, payment and administration of any funds to be received from the opioid litigation funds; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the oversight of litigation settlement funds, the board shall identify, develop a plan of action and implement strategies to curb and attempt to overcome opioid abuse in Claiborne County, Tennessee; and,

WHEREAS, the Opioid Board received 5 local funding grant applications on or before the posted deadline of February 28th, reviewed and scored the grant applications; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Claiborne County Commission, based on the recommendation from the Opioid Board, authorizes the following grant applications to be funding in FY27 beginning on July 1, 2026, ending on June 30, 2027:

Stand in the Gap Coalition
Boys and Girls Club of Claiborne County
Live Free Claiborne

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the following line items are to be added to the FY27 budget for tracking and auditing purposes.

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-46845		\$150,000
101-58500-722-SIG	\$50,000	
101-58500-722-BGC	\$50,000	
101-58500-722-LFC	\$50,000	

BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

PASS AND APPROVED this 20th day of April 2026.

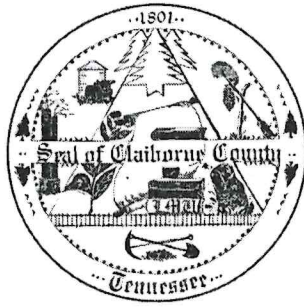
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Hurst, County Clerk

Submitted by Joe Brooks, County Mayor

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 9:00 am D.C.



Claiborne County Opioid Settlement Funding

2026 Announcement of Funding

Due to the extensive damage and loss of life caused by the opioid crisis that was brought on by the unethical and over-prescribing of opioid medications, the state of Tennessee will be receiving over \$1 billion over 18 years in settlement funds from several large corporations. Claiborne County has been allocated a portion of these funds, which will be received in annual payments. The County has established the Claiborne County Opioid Board to oversee the spending of these funds to ensure they are used to remediate the opioid crisis and save lives. The Board will invite community organizations to apply for these funds annually.

Availability of Funds

The selection process for funding will utilize a competitive process, and the number of awards will be dependent on the amount of funds available for annual allocation. The amount of funds available and dates of application submissions and awards will differ annually. The amount of funds available for the 2026 funding cycle will be **\$150,000.00** distributed in the form of three separate grants totaling **\$50,000.000**, and proposals will be accepted between **January 1st – February 28th, 2026**.

Up to 20% of the available funds can be held back at the discretion of the Claiborne County Opioid Board each funding cycle for urgent needs that may arise between annual funding periods. If the holdback funds are not allocated prior to the next funding cycle, they will be included in the total amount available for distribution.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from any organization that serves residents of Claiborne County but will only be distributed to those that provide services that fall within the approved remediation uses set forth by the TN Opioid Abatement Council, listed below in Allowable Uses of Funds and outlined in [Exhibit E](#). If an applying organization is located outside of Claiborne County, funds will only be awarded to that organization if they are used to serve Claiborne County residents. The Claiborne County Opioid Board will dispense funds in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations that counties must adhere to when allocating funds to community organizations.

Required Documents for Application Submission

Proposals are due by **February 28th, 2026, at 11:59 pm**, and must be submitted to the Claiborne County Mayor's Office by emailing opioid@claibornecountyttn.gov with the following required documents:

- Application for funding with a completed budget and work plan
- Current annual operating budget
- State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable

- Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators if applicable

Selection and Award Process

The Claiborne County Opioid Board will review and score all applications received. The board will consider scores and along with other factors to make funding decisions. These factors may include county priorities, community needs, funds available, cost-effectiveness, and federal and state regulations. If the total amount requested is higher than the total amount available for distribution, applicants may be contacted to discuss possible project and/or budget revisions.

The County Mayor and Claiborne County Commission will have final approval of any funding recommendations provided by the Claiborne County Opioid Board.

Notice of award is expected to occur by **June 1st, 2026**. Following the notice of award, the organizations will be contacted to discuss the contract process and specific metrics that must be reported back to the county.

The funding period will be *12 months in duration* beginning **July 1st, 2026**, unless an alternative project start date is agreed upon by the awardee and Claiborne County Finance Director.

Allowable Uses of Funds & Funding Restrictions

Awarded funds cannot be used for administrative or indirect costs. Activities must meet the definition of opioid remediation, be evidence-based strategies or promising practices, and align with the core strategies and allowable uses outlined by Exhibit E. The Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council (TN OAC) adjusted Exhibit E into the Remediation List Strategies. Organizations will be asked to use this document when applying and for reporting purposes if funded. Core strategies include:

- Naloxone or other FDA-approved drugs to reverse opioid overdoses
- Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) distribution and other opioid-related treatment
- Address the needs of pregnant and postpartum women
- Expanding treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
- Treatment for incarcerated population
- Prevention programs
- Expanding syringe service programs
- Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the state

Requirements if Awarded Funding

Organizations awarded funding are required to:

- Utilize funds within the defined funding period as agreed upon in the contract. If those funds are not used as agreed in the contract the applicant may:
 - Return any remaining funds to the Claiborne County Opioid Board at the end of the funding period, OR
 - Request an extension to use the funds past the funding period, OR

- Request an amendment to their current contract to use the remaining funds for additional strategies
- Ensure utilization of funds supplements, rather than supplants, existing funding
- Ensure all funds are used in alignment with remediation uses approved by the TN Opioid Abatement Council as described above
- Ensure funds are not used for administrative or indirect costs
- Provide data on program outputs, outcomes, impact, and effectiveness as determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board
- Complete and submit required quarterly and annual reports to the county

Reporting Requirements

Recipients must provide **quarterly project reports** to opioid@claibornecountytn.gov starting **October 15th, 2026**, or **15 days after the first project quarter** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The reports must outline:

- Staff working on the project
- Community partners involved with the project
- Challenges and barriers experienced within the associated timeframe
- Successes experienced within the associated timeframe
- Anticipated next steps
- Strategies addressed
- Number of Claiborne County residents served with settlement funding
- All project-specific metrics determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board

An **annual report** is to be provided following project close by **July 31st, 2026**, or **30 days after project close** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The annual report must include all the above data and be submitted to opioid@claibornecountytn.gov.

Application Checklist

To be considered a complete application and qualify for funding, the following items must be submitted:

Grant application for funding

Completed budget & budget narrative

Completed work plan

Current annual operating budget

State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable

Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators

Opioid Settlement Grant Application

Application Details

Application due date	February 28 th , 2026, at 11:59 pm
Anticipated notice of award	June 1 st , 2026
Anticipated funding period	July 1 st , 2026, to June 30 th , 2027
Submission date	

Section One: Organizational Information

Organization Name: Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) Federal Tax ID #: 47-2621322

Street Address: 325 Straight Creek Road City: New Tazewell Zip code: 37825

Type of organization: Non-profit and/or 501(c)(3) For profit Governmental

Purpose of organization:

Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) is a 501(C)(3) non-profit Substance Use Prevention Coalition (SUPC) in Claiborne County, Tennessee which has been continually organized for fifteen (15) years locally while servicing Claiborne County and designated as such with the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS), Nashville, TN. seven (7) years.

Additionally, SIGCO has been designated by resolution, as the prevention coalition for Claiborne County by its twenty-one (21) County Commissioners. Claiborne County is a rural eastern county of 32,070 residents.

SIGCO is a Drug Awareness and Prevention (DAP) Coalition with a Primary Focus on Prevention. In Prevention endeavors, SIGCO seeks to reach all citizens in Claiborne County in promoting and leading the way toward a Healthier and Safer environment to Live, Raise Families, seek Educational Opportunities and Personal Avocations.

SIGCO originated from a viewing of “**An Appalachian Dawn**” documentary of the scourge of Oxycontin and Illicit-Illegal Pain Relief Drugs of the late 1990’s and early 2000’ era in Eastern Appalachia and Clay County, Kentucky by the Sentinel Group of Washington State. From this viewing by two (2) originators of SIGCO, an estimated 7,000 people walked into the historic town of Cumberland Gap, at the Tri-State Border of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia to show support saying “NO” to Drugs in the local region.

Following this initial show of Public Support, the Stand in the Gap Coalition continued its organization and outreach to varied venues and peoples throughout Claiborne County continuously from 2010 through the present 2026.

SIGCO seeks to reach all citizens of Claiborne County in Substance Misuse, Drug Awareness and Prevention (DAP) following the SIGCO education formula of “*Communication + Education = Performance*” (i.e. Better Life Choices) toward a More Safe and Healthy Lifestyle.

SIGCO currently partners with the Claiborne County Justice Center with the Office of District Attorney General 8th Judicial District and the Claiborne County Juvenile Court to provide Substance Abuse and Addictive Process Training (SAAP). This is a comprehensive three (3) hour Substance Misuse prevention course offered to individuals who have incurred misdemeanor infractions in the community and/or the school system. SAAP training addresses five (5) substances of Opioids (Stimulants), Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana and Rx prescription medications misuse. Voluntary participation is offered as an alternative to more stringent punishment. SIGCO provides upon completion of training a certificate to participants and reports completion of training back to each court system. SIGCO also provides other Prevention training, education, and materials throughout the community.

Individuals seeking Recovery Training for restructuring a New Life without Substance Misuse often find it very difficult to believe their innate Traits and Characteristics that will strengthen their personal lives with resilience and tenacity through the journey of Recovery.

SIGCO has discovered the The Trait-Based Model of Recovery : Start from Strength Program designed, researched and produced by Dr. Jason Roop, formerly of Claiborne County, Tn. The Trait-Based Program is an Evidenced Based program now reaching across America throughout Recovery Training communities.

With a desire to build, strengthen and continue, the SIGCO prevention programs in Claiborne County, SIGCO is requesting Opioid Abatement Funds to initiate, organize and offer Trait-Based Recovery training in Claiborne County, a first in kind for Claiborne County and Tennessee.

Annual operating budget (*must attach documentation*): (See Attached)

Year established: 2010 Number of employees: 7 Number volunteers: 15

Is the organization licensed or accredited by the state of TN? No X Yes (*must attach documentation*)

Project contact name: Hazle M. Spurlock Contact title: Executive Director

Phone number: 423-300-1302 Email: standntgap@gmail.com

Section Two: Funding Information

Total Funding Request: \$ 50,000

What percentage of the *total project cost* will the requested funds cover? 100%

What percentage of *funds requested* will be used to serve residents of Claiborne County? 100%

Funding currently beginning received from Claiborne County

Amount: \$2500 Purpose: Non-Profit Drug Awareness and Prevention Education

Budget Narrative

Please provide a detailed justification for each line item in the budget, explaining how these expenses support the project's objectives and goals. We recommend filling out the Budget first and then filling out this section.

The Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO), the Claiborne County designated Substance Use Prevention Coalition (SUPC) by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS), and by Resolution of the Claiborne County Commissioners has a focus to Prevent substance misuse in Claiborne County by sustaining current programs within the Coalition. SIGCO proposes to implement and sustain a comprehensive, Trait-Based Recovery and Prevention initiatives serving Participants over a 12-month period which has statistically demonstrated significant reductions in anxiety and depression scores among participants completing the program in Opioid Prevention and Recovery. Participants are Adults engaged in recovery from opioid or polysubstance use and Youth who develop elevated risk due to family or community exposure.

This project will utilize the Trait-Based Model of Recovery (TBMR) for Adults and the Trait-Based Model of Prevention (TBMP) for Youth. Both models are structured, assessment-driven frameworks that activate inherent protective traits rather than focusing solely on behavior suppression.

This initiative addresses substance use at both the individual and family system level, recognizing that recovery stability increases when youth and adults within the same household or community share a common strengths-based language and framework.

The Trait-Based Model of Recovery is not a conceptual framework alone. It is grounded in multi-year applied research conducted in behavioral healthcare settings and published in peer-reviewed scientific literature. Outcomes from implementation of the TBMR were published in Scientific Reports, a premier, peer reviewed, "open access", mega journal publishing original research which focuses on scientific validity, demonstrating statistically significant reductions in anxiety and depression scores among participants completing the program. In addition to symptom reduction, participants showed measurable increases in core protective traits such as resilience, emotional intelligence, creativity and leadership capacity.

Rather than functioning as a therapy replacement, TBMR operates as a structured recovery support intervention that enhances long-term stabilization and internal regulation. The TBMP applies the same evidence-based framework to youth, strengthening early protective traits before high-risk behaviors escalate. Prevention efforts focus on emotional intelligence, self-awareness, resilience, and boundary-setting, which are well-documented predictors of long-term mental health and substance use. This research foundation positions the project as both innovative and empirically grounded. (line item 1&2 budget)

The Instructor Training for Trait-Based Recovery is basic cost for Initial Instructor Training and Certification Education/Training. Hire or train staff/workers to provide or expand any of the services or supports listed above as well as provide Supplies, Training Materials for Meetings, Guidebooks, and Workbooks for the programs. Staff/Intern support to provide Professional Fees for Training, Preparation, Education/Training & sustain current prevention and recovery programs within SIGCO (line item 3,4,5,7,8)

Advertising Billboards, Newspaper Ads & Media - Promote Awareness of the harmful effects of Substance Misuse and support Prevention & Recovery Programs with SIGCO. (line item 6)

Sustainability

Please provide information about how this project will be sustained after the funding period. Include details such as other grants or funding sources that the organization has or plans to obtain.

- Primary- Financial follow-on support from Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO).
- Secondary – Donations from our Claiborne County industrial community and Strategic Partners.
- Thirdly- Additional granting through State or Federal Sources as applicable to Opioid Abatement funding.
- Fourth- Personal Sponsorship for Participants as through Family, Friends, Churches, and Local Non-Profit organizations.
- Fifth- Faith Based Community Donations as associated with Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) in Claiborne County, Tn.

Budget Template for Opioid Settlement Funding

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO)

Expense or Activity	Description	Strategy Addressed	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Participation Expense	Trait-Based Recovery basic cost for program set-up/Adult Recovery Track	Education/ Training /E2 Recovery Support/A1, BB8 Harm Reduction/A2	\$200	20/yr	\$4000.00
Participation Expense	Trait-Based Recovery basic cost Youth Prevention Track and Implement into existing SAAP/DAP Trainings	Education/Training/B2, BB8 Recovery Support/A1/B2	\$200	15/YR	\$3,000.00
Instructor Training	Trait-Based Recovery basic cost for Initial Instructor Training and Certification	Youth/Adult Ed/Training/KK1, AA5, A1 Hire or train staff/workers to provide or expand any of the services or supports listed above	\$400	6	\$2,400.00
Supplies, Training Materials, Meetings	Guidebooks, Workbooks, Supplies, Meetings	Education/Training/B2, A1	\$200	20	\$4,000.00
Staff/intern support	Professional Fees for Training, Preparation, Research	Education/Training/B2, AA5, A1	\$250/wk.	2 Trainers	\$13,000.00
Advertising	Billboards Newspaper Ads Media	Promote Awareness of harmful effects of misuse/Promote Prevention Programs E2, G1, G4	\$500/mo. \$250/mo. \$250/mo.	Youth/ Adult	\$6,000.00 \$3,000.00 \$3,000.00

Youth Trait-Based Training	SIGCO Youth Coalition Coordinators	Professional fees to provide Education/Training/A1 Primary Prevention/B2, KK1, AA5	\$200/per Training	24	\$4,800.00
Sustain Current SIGCO projects	SIGCO Youth Coalition Meetings SAAP/DAP Trainings/Interns Youth Prevention Message Materials and Signs, Flyers, Bi-Folds	Expand Training A1, AA5 Provide Education B2, BB8 School Based and Youth Based Programs that Prevent Misuse	566.00	12/months	\$6,792.00
Project Total =					\$49,992.00

Section Three: Project Information

Project Details

Project title: Trait-Based Recovery Training Program

Strategies that will be addressed with funds (Select all that apply):	X	Primary Prevention	X	Recovery Support
	X	Harm Reduction	X	Education & Training
		Treatment		Research & Evaluation

Target population and geographical area: 32,070 Claiborne County, TN.

Anticipated number of people served with requested funds: Total population Claiborne County citizens

Project description (it is recommended to complete the Work Plan first, then fill this section out):

The Trait-Based Model of Recovery takes a more comprehensive and holistic view of the recovery process, emphasizing the development of essential traits and skills that bolster resilience, foster personal growth, and nurture long-term success. It recognizes that recovery is not just about abstaining from harmful substances or behaviors.

Trait-Based Recovery understands that the knowledge for healing is innate within the individual and the role of the facilitator is simply to nurture genuine empathy and compassion and help guide the person to self-discovery. When this happens there is reduced pull to substances or destructive behaviors.

Once there is a genuine awareness of one's potential, it's impossible to suppress the positive trait-based characteristics of the individual. Instilling self-responsibility for the journey of recovery while building leadership is truly transformational. The introduction and support of self-worth within the curriculum is a way for participants to achieve incredible success and freedom by having control of their destiny.

Traditional models of recovery have often focused on the elimination of addictive behaviors alone, treating addiction as a singular problem to be solved. While this approach has been helpful to countless individuals seeking sobriety, it may fall short in addressing the underlying factors that led to addiction in the first place and may not fully prepare individuals for the challenges that lie ahead in maintaining lasting change.

We, at Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) believe that this model of recovery, having been shown effective through trial and research with personal addiction, will develop stronger and better citizens for Claiborne County by redirecting individual Trait-Based characteristics into more positive and productive strengths in everyday environments; Family, Friends, Community and Workforce.

Internal staffing for this project:

Internal staffing for the Trait-Based Training will be conducted by Rev. James Shoffner, who has been organic to SIGCO since its inception. He is a Trait-Based trained and certified instructor and a certified Recovery Coach.

SIGCO is a Substance Use Prevention Coalition (SUPC) and designated as such by Tennessee Dept of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS) which will provide support to this program. Additional instructors will be trained with grant funding for this Trait-Based recovery program.

External project partners or collaborators (please attach letters of support if possible): See Attached

Dr. Jason Roop, Originator, Trait Based Recovery Training and Certification

Dr. Roop is a former Claiborne County resident who was in addiction. His mother came to SIGCO seeking help for her son Jason. Because SIGCO was instrumental in facilitating recovery for Jason, he now wishes to partner with SIGCO and influence his community through Start from Strength Trait-Based Recovery Program (SFSTB).

SIGCO Support, Transition, and Recovery, Training (S.T.A.R.T.) Program.

SIGCO currently partners with the Claiborne County Justice Center with the Office of District Attorney General 8th Judicial District and the Claiborne County Juvenile Court to provide Substance Abuse and Addictive Process Training (SAAP). This is a voluntary comprehensive three (3) hour Substance Misuse prevention course offered to individuals who have incurred misdemeanor infractions in the community and/or the school system. SAAP training addresses five (5) substances of Opioids (Stimulants), Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana and Rx prescription medications misuse. SIGCO also provides other Drug Awareness and Prevention (DAP) training, education, and materials throughout the community.

Is this a new or existing project? (Check one): New X Existing

If existing, have/will you receive grant funding from any other source for this project? No X Yes

If yes, please list the grants and amounts:

See attached Annual Operating Budget. SIGCO will utilize funding to supplement and sustain existing SAAP and DAP training programs and also funding of the Trait Based Recovery Training both youth and adult for implementing the training into existing programs.

If existing, how will the requested funds be used to supplement rather than supplant the project?

Requested funds will be utilized to buy training work books, and Trait Based Education materials along with support by the Start From Strength (SFS) Trait-Based recovery program.

Additionally, requested funds will assist with funding Future Training Instructors for the program expansion and provide supplies and materials necessary for meetings.

Requested funds will make it possible for other people to go through the trait based recovery training at no cost to them. For those who are working through addiction recovery and have families, this program will make it possible for them financially and personally, to manage work, family and recovery.

Supporting Data

Is the project evidence-based or based on promising practices? No Yes

If yes, provide links to supporting evidence:

Dr. Jason Roop, PhD. Trait-Based Recovery Training statistical data and program development growth. 97.1% successful program completion and retention compared to 47% in other traditional treatment programs.

START FROM STRENGTH: The Empowerment Workbook, a comprehensive training guide developed specifically for the Trait-Based Recovery program.

PARTICIPANT GUIDEBOOK: Trait-Based Model of Recovery Guidebook, the fundamental and core teaching elements of this recovery program.

Please provide data to support the need for the project in the community:

There is currently no existing Trait-Based Recovery program or developed recovery training in Claiborne County.

Clinical Outcomes have proven 72.5% reduction in Depression and 58.5% reduction in anxiety.

This recovery model is built to take the Individual Traits utilized in addiction, toward leadership qualities in post recovery environments. Successful participants in the Trait-Based Recovery Training program will provide to Claiborne County, increased industrial employment opportunities and a more stabilized workforce.

The Trait-Based Recovery program is a most cost effective training program for enhancing Adult Family Stability, Work Environments and Personal Health Improvements. Statistical data has shown that for every dollar spent on Prevention Recovery, there will be an Eleven (11) dollar value increase to the local community. Successful participants in the Trait-Based Recovery program have demonstrated greater discipline in the work environment, and more sound leadership qualities among their peers.

Project Revenue

Will you charge a fee or bill insurances for the services provided with this project? No Yes

If yes, please describe for what and the estimated amount:

Subcontracts

Will your organization subcontract for services? No Yes

If yes, what organization will receive funds from you?

Organization contact name:

Email or phone:

Subcontract amount:

Expected activities:

Data Collection & Use

What system or database will be used to gather and store information relevant to the project?

- Organic Data Collection within Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) through individual surveys of various programs/trainings by SIGCO.
- Individual Participant assessments from the Initial Program Opening to Mid-Term analysis, and Program Ending data through the Trait-Based Model Recovery program data base.
- Trait-Based Recovery program originator and informational data manager oversight provisions.

What methods will be employed to track grant-funded activities and specific assistance?

SIGCO will monitor the financial progress of this funding through frequent budget reviews and subsequent reports to Claiborne County Finance Department requirements.

All training program activities will be monitored through internal SIGCO reports.

Who is responsible for the collection and quality assurance of this data?

James Shoffner, SIGCO S.T.A.R.T. and Trait Based Recovery Instructor/Director

Describe how your organization plans to use the gathered data to continuously evaluate the project's progress and effectiveness. Please address how this data will inform future planning.

- This Trait Based Recovery Training program will be evaluated through Program Participant interviews, self-evaluation correspondence and team inter-coordinated reviews.
- Future Training planning will be continually evaluated through internal and external evaluations for most effective practices.
- Through support of the Trait-Based model of recovery, each participant will have a Lifetime access to personal review and analysis of their individual progress in recovery.

Project Work Plan

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: [Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO)]

Total Funds Requested: \$50,000]

Overall Goal(s) of Project: Establish a Trait-Based framework for Individuals in Prevention, Recovery, Leadership, and Human Development

Objectives What is the measurable objective you are seeking to achieve?	Activities What activities will be completed that help achieve the corresponding objective?	Remediation Strategy Please use the TN OAC's table (linked).	Outcomes What measurable results are you seeking to achieve by completing the corresponding activities?	Measures of Success How will the success of the outcomes be assessed? What data points will be measured?	Timeframe When will this part of the project begin and end?	Accountability Who is responsible for each project activity?	Funds Requested What are the requested grant funds for this part of the project?
Develop Trait -Based Characteristics from Trait-based model of recovery program Individual Awareness to Perceived Risk of "No Harm" of Substance Misuse & Sustain current training programs & education Professional fees for Staff /Interns Instructors training certifications Media - Promote Awareness of harmful effects of misuse/Support Prevention Programs.	Commence Initial Trait-Based Recovery 40-week program per participant & monthly Meetings and training for current programs & Trainings Provide resources for addiction & Recovery help & Awareness through Media	Recovery Support/BB8, BB5, E2, A2, AA5 Prevention/ GG5, B2, A1, KK1, KK2, E3	Increased Personal Strengths Reinforce Industrial Workforce Stability Enhanced Capabilities in Workforce Interviews by building positive traits Increased economic productivity	Individual Assessments and Program completions and surveys Training Group Involvement Job Promotions	Begin July 1, 2026 End June 30, 2027	Trait-Based and Certified Instructor & Coalition Staff Trait-Based Recovery program Lifetime Program Access	50% \$25,000

Develop Youth Trait-Based Characteristics & Increase Substance Prevention Support	Youth Trait-based training & monthly training for current programs & Meetings and Trainings	Recovery Support/BB8, AA5, BB5, E2, G1, G4, KK1, KK2, A1, A2, B2, E3	Reduce Substance Misuse & Enhance Individual outcomes for an addiction free future Stronger family unit	Individual Assessments and Program completions and surveys	Begin July 1, 2026 End June 30, 2027	Trait-Based and Certified Instructor & Coalition Staff	50% \$25,000
Trait-Based Recovery program Professional fees for Staff /Interns	Provide resources for addiction & Recovery help & Awareness through Media			Training Group Involvement		Trait-Based Recovery program Lifetime Program Access	
Instructors training certifications and promote knowledge & awareness of harmful effects of substance misuse through Media & Support Prevention Programs.							

Claiborne County Opioid Settlement Funding

2026 Announcement of Funding

Due to the extensive damage and loss of life caused by the opioid crisis that was brought on by the unethical and over-prescribing of opioid medications, the state of Tennessee will be receiving over \$1 billion over 18 years in settlement funds from several large corporations. Claiborne County has been allocated a portion of these funds, which will be received in annual payments. The County has established the Claiborne County Opioid Board to oversee the spending of these funds to ensure they are used to remediate the opioid crisis and save lives. The Board will invite community organizations to apply for these funds annually.

Availability of Funds

The selection process for funding will utilize a competitive process, and the number of awards will be dependent on the amount of funds available for annual allocation. The amount of funds available and dates of application submissions and awards will differ annually. The amount of funds available for the 2026 funding cycle will be **\$150,000.00** distributed in the form of three separate grants totaling **\$50,000.000**, and proposals will be accepted between **January 1st – February 28th, 2026**.

Up to 20% of the available funds can be held back at the discretion of the Claiborne County Opioid Board each funding cycle for urgent needs that may arise between annual funding periods. If the holdback funds are not allocated prior to the next funding cycle, they will be included in the total amount available for distribution.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from any organization that serves residents of Claiborne County but will only be distributed to those that provide services that fall within the approved remediation uses set forth by the TN Opioid Abatement Council, listed below in Allowable Uses of Funds and outlined in Exhibit E. If an applying organization is located outside of Claiborne County, funds will only be awarded to that organization if they are used to serve Claiborne County residents. The Claiborne County Opioid Board will dispense funds in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations that counties must adhere to when allocating funds to community organizations.

Required Documents for Application Submission

Proposals are due by **February 28th, 2026, at 11:59 pm**, and must be submitted to the Claiborne County Mayor's Office by emailing opioid@claibornecountytn.gov with the following required documents:

- Application for funding with a completed budget and work plan
- Current annual operating budget
- State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable
- Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators if applicable

Selection and Award Process

The Claiborne County Opioid Board will review and score all applications received. The board will consider scores and along with other factors to make funding decisions. These factors may include county priorities, community needs, funds available, cost-effectiveness, and federal and state regulations. If the total amount requested is higher than the total amount available for distribution, applicants may be contacted to discuss possible project and/or budget revisions.

The County Mayor and Claiborne County Commission will have final approval of any funding recommendations provided by the Claiborne County Opioid Board.

Notice of award is expected to occur by **June 1st, 2026**. Following the notice of award, the organizations will be contacted to discuss the contract process and specific metrics that must be reported back to the county.

The funding period will be *12 months in duration* beginning **July 1st, 2026**, unless an alternative project start date is agreed upon by the awardee and Claiborne County Finance Director.

Allowable Uses of Funds & Funding Restrictions

Awarded funds cannot be used for administrative or indirect costs. Activities must meet the definition of opioid remediation, be evidence-based strategies or promising practices, and align with the core strategies and allowable uses outlined by [Exhibit E](#). The Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council (TN OAC) adjusted Exhibit E into the [Remediation List Strategies](#). Organizations will be asked to use this document when applying and for reporting purposes if funded. Core strategies include:

- Naloxone or other FDA-approved drugs to reverse opioid overdoses
- Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) distribution and other opioid-related treatment
- Address the needs of pregnant and postpartum women
- Expanding treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
- Treatment for incarcerated population
- Prevention programs
- Expanding syringe service programs
- Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the state

Requirements if Awarded Funding

Organizations awarded funding are required to:

- Utilize funds within the defined funding period as agreed upon in the contract. If those funds are not used as agreed in the contract the applicant may:
 - Return any remaining funds to the Claiborne County Opioid Board at the end of the funding period, OR
 - Request an extension to use the funds past the funding period, OR
 - Request an amendment to their current contract to use the remaining funds for additional strategies
- Ensure utilization of funds supplements, rather than supplants, existing funding
- Ensure all funds are used in alignment with remediation uses approved by the TN Opioid Abatement Council as described above
- Ensure funds are not used for administrative or indirect costs
- Provide data on program outputs, outcomes, impact, and effectiveness as determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board
- Complete and submit required quarterly and annual reports to the county

Reporting Requirements

Recipients must provide **quarterly project reports** to opioid@claibornecountytn.gov starting **October 15th, 2026**, or **15 days after the first project quarter** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The reports must outline:

- Staff working on the project
- Community partners involved with the project
- Challenges and barriers experienced within the associated timeframe
- Successes experienced within the associated timeframe
- Anticipated next steps
- Strategies addressed
- Number of Claiborne County residents served with settlement funding
- All project-specific metrics determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board

An **annual report** is to be provided following project close by **July 31st, 2026**, or **30 days after project close** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The annual report must include all the above data and be submitted to opioid@claibornecountytn.gov.

Application Checklist

To be considered a complete application and qualify for funding, the following items must be submitted:

- Grant application for funding
- Completed budget & budget narrative
- Completed work plan

Current annual operating budget

State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable

Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators

Opioid Settlement Grant Application

Application Details

Application due date	February 28 th , 2026, at 11:59 pm
Anticipated notice of award	June 1 st , 2026
Anticipated funding period	July 1 st , 2026, to June 30 th , 2027
Submission date	February 28, 2026

Section One: Organizational Information

Organization Name: Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley Federal Tax ID #: 62-0475743

Street Address: 967 Irwin Street City: Knoxville Zip code: 37917

Type of organization: Non-profit and/or 501(c)(3) For profit Governmental

Purpose of organization:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley (BGCTNV) is one of the largest youth-serving organizations in East Tennessee. Our organization provides after-school and summer programs to over 8,400 youth annually, ages 4 to 18, across 27 Clubs in six East Tennessee counties, including Claiborne County. BGCTNV offers programming in five core areas:

- Character & Leadership Development
- Education & Career Development
- Health & Life Skills
- Sports, Fitness, & Recreation

Our Mission: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.
Our Vision: To be the place for youth in East Tennessee by providing opportunities and relationships that build their sense of belonging and unlock their potential for lifelong success.

Annual operating budget (*must attach documentation*): \$13,617,918

Year established: 1943 Number of employees: 280 Number volunteers: 277

Is the organization licensed or accredited by the state of TN? No X Yes (*must attach documentation*)

Project contact name: Carri Russell Contact title: Director of MESH

Phone number: (865) 232-1198 Email: cnrussell@bgctnv.org

Section Two: Funding Information

Total Funding Request: \$ 50,000

What percentage of the *total project cost* will the requested funds cover? 14%

What percentage of *funds requested* will be used to serve residents of Claiborne County? 100%

Funding currently beginning received from Claiborne County

Amount: \$0 Purpose:

Budget Narrative

Please provide a detailed justification for each line item in the budget, explaining how these expenses support the project's objectives and goals. We recommend filling out the Budget first and then filling out this section.

The requested funding for the MESH Prevention Works Program will support a range of activities designed to enhance youth resiliency, provide trauma-informed care, and prevent substance misuse among Claiborne County youth. Below is a detailed justification for each budget line item, explaining how these expenses align with the program's objectives and goals.

1. Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff – \$5,000

Staff training is a critical component of this project, ensuring that Club professionals and mentors are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide trauma-informed services and positive youth development. Funds will support at least three training sessions annually, covering topics such as mentorship, resiliency-building, and substance use prevention. These trainings enhance staff capacity to create supportive environments and foster strong, nurturing relationships with youth, directly aligning with the project's mission of reducing risk factors for substance misuse.

2. Resiliency Programming for Youth – \$10,000

This funding will support group mentoring and counseling sessions led by licensed social workers, trained staff, and volunteers. Youth will participate in evidence-based programs such as SMART

Moves, Triple Play Social Recreation, Journeys-Paths to Adulthood, and Second Step. These initiatives are designed to develop self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, decision-making, and healthy peer relationships, all of which serve as protective factors against substance misuse. Funds will cover program materials, curriculum resources, and staffing costs associated with implementation.

4. Afterschool/Out-of-School Programming – \$15,000

Funding will support structured after-school and out-of-school time programming, where youth will have access to mentorship, prevention programs, and social-emotional learning opportunities. By providing a safe and structured environment, these programs help reduce the likelihood of risk-taking behaviors associated with substance misuse. Funds will help cover operational costs, supplies, and staffing to ensure high-quality program delivery.

5. Substance Use Prevention Education – \$15,000

The program will provide youth and families with education on substance use prevention, incorporating curricula from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Operation Prevention program and other evidence-based sources. Funds will support staff, training materials, educational workshops, and interactive learning experiences that help youth understand the dangers of substance use and build decision-making skills to avoid risky behaviors.

6. Program Outcome Evaluation & Reporting – \$5,000

Effective program evaluation is essential to measuring impact and ensuring continuous improvement. Funding will support data collection, analysis, and reporting on program effectiveness. This will include tracking youth participation, pre- and post-program assessments, and overall program outcomes. By evaluating program success, we can refine strategies, improve service delivery, and secure additional funding to sustain and expand the initiative.

Total Funding Requested: \$50,000

Sustainability

Please provide information about how this project will be sustained after the funding period. Include details such as other grants or funding sources that the organization has or plans to obtain.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley (BGCTNV) is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the MESH Prevention Works Program in Claiborne County beyond the funding period.

The following strategies and funding sources will support the program's continuation:

Diversified Funding Streams:

BGCTNV has a proven track record of securing funding from a variety of sources, including federal, state, and local grants, corporate sponsorships, private foundations, and individual donors. For this program, we will leverage existing partnerships with funders who prioritize mental health and substance misuse prevention. Additionally, we will pursue the following potential funding sources:

- Renewal of opioid abatement funding in subsequent cycles.
- Applications for grants from organizations such as the Tennessee Department of Health, SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), and private foundations.
- Local funding initiatives, such as contributions from Claiborne County businesses, community organizations, and individual donors.

Community Partnerships:

BGCTNV has established strong partnerships with local agencies, schools, and healthcare providers across East Tennessee. These collaborations enable shared resources, such as in-kind contributions, to support program costs. For example, Claiborne County schools provide program space reducing operational expenses.

Program Revenue:

The Club operates a sliding fee scale for membership dues, which contributes to the program's operating costs. Additionally, we will explore hosting community fundraising events and campaigns specifically targeted at supporting the MESH program and other opioid prevention initiatives.

Ongoing Volunteer Support:

Volunteers, including social work interns from the University of Tennessee and other higher education institutions, play a vital role in the program. By partnering with local universities, we ensure a steady

supply of trained interns to deliver mentoring and counseling services, which helps to offset staffing costs.

Cost Efficiency Measures:

BGCTNV continuously evaluates programs for efficiency and impact, ensuring resources are directed toward the highest priorities. This includes sharing materials, curricula, and training across Club sites to maximize the value of investments.

Demonstrated Program Outcomes:

By collecting robust data on program effectiveness, including improved youth outcomes and reduction of risk factors, we will be better positioned to secure future funding. Demonstrating measurable success helps build trust and credibility with funders, increasing the likelihood of renewed or new funding.

Budget Template for Opioid Settlement Funding

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

Expense or Activity	Description	Strategy Addressed	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff	Program Staff will receive trainings on topics like trauma-informed services, positive youth development, mentorship, and substance use prevention designed to enable staff to create supportive & safe environments, build nurturing relationships, and strengthen resiliency in youth. Staff will attend at least 3 related trainings a year.	A1	\$2000	1	\$2000.00
Resiliency Programming for youth	Trained staff, volunteers, and social workers provide programming & support such as classroom sessions, groups, mentoring, and counseling designed to develop self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, decision-making, and healthy	GG8	\$7000	1	\$7000.00

relationships for at-risk youth. Curriculum for group programming may include materials from organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs of America (such as SMART Moves, Triple Play Social Recreation, Journeys- Paths to Adulthood, and SMART Moves), PEAR Inc (such as Ready, Set, Action, Our Stories, or Strong Links) and Second Step (Second Step Out-of-School Time).

Afterschool/ Out of School Programmi ng	Provides a supportive space for youth afterschool, where they will be connected to mentors and prevention programs.	GG7	\$15000	1	\$15000.00
Substance Use Education	Provide youth and families with education on substance use prevention and other activities that support prevention.	GG1 1	\$15000	1	\$15000.00
Program Outcome Evaluation & Reporting	Program activities and initiatives are evaluated and reported for effectiveness.	1	\$5000	1	\$5000.00

Project	
Total =	\$50,000.00

Section Three: Project Information

Project Details

Project title: MESH Prevention Works – Claiborne County

Strategies that will be addressed with funds (Select all that apply):	x	Primary Prevention	Recovery Support
		Harm Reduction	x Education & Training
		Treatment	Research & Evaluation

Target population and geographical area:

The MESH Prevention Works Program will serve youth ages 4–18 attending Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley sites in Claiborne County. The program will prioritize youth from low-income households and those identified as at higher risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma, and substance misuse risk factors.

Anticipated number of people served with requested funds: 125

Project description (it is recommended to complete the Work Plan first, then fill this section out):

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley (BGCTNV) is one of the largest youth-serving organizations in East Tennessee. Our organization provides after-school and summer programs to over 7,800 youth annually, ages 4 to 18, across 26 Clubs in six East Tennessee counties, including Claiborne County.

Our specialized initiatives include College and Career Readiness and Member Emotional and Social Health (MESH) program. The MESH Prevention Works Program, under the umbrella of the MESH initiative, is specifically designed to address the escalating opioid epidemic's impact on youth in high-risk communities. The target population is youth aged 4 to 18 from low-income households who attend our Claiborne County Club sites. These sites serve communities where many youth lack access to essential prevention and mental health resources.

Claiborne County faces significant challenges with substance misuse and its cascading effects on youth and families. With over 2,100 children in Claiborne County classified as economically disadvantaged, many are at increased risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which are strongly linked to substance misuse later in life. Research by the Tennessee Department of Health shows that individuals with four or more ACEs are twelve times more likely to misuse drugs and alcohol or experience mental health challenges. Addressing these issues early is essential to breaking cycles of trauma and addiction in our community.

MESH Prevention Works Program seeks to:

1. Enhance social and emotional skill development to build resilience and reduce risk factors associated with substance misuse.
2. Create safe, positive spaces where youth can develop strong relationships with caring adults and peers.
3. Deliver evidence-based opioid and substance misuse prevention education to youth and families.

4. Engage families and foster community partnerships to address broader support needs.

The MESH Prevention Works Program implements the following strategies:

Strategy 1: Building Resilience

This strategy focuses on connecting Club youth with caring, trained adult mentors through small-group opportunities. Groups create a sense of emotional safety and peer support, building critical social-emotional skills to prevent opioid and substance misuse, including self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, healthy decision-making, self-efficacy, and positive relationships.

Includes:

1. Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff: Mentors participate in SMART Moves program training and receive the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Mentoring Toolkit, which covers five key areas: building safe environments, creating belonging, developing relationships, offering new experiences, and youth recognition. They also attend three professional development training opportunities annually, including trauma-informed care and ACEs training.
2. Small-Group Mentoring and Counseling: Trained staff and volunteers provide mentoring and counseling sessions for at-risk youth, focusing on developing self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, decision-making, and healthy relationships.

Strategy 2: Substance Use Prevention Education and Support

This strategy involves age-appropriate programs and trauma-informed approaches to teach youth about substance use prevention.

Includes:

1. SMART Moves Program (K-8th): Teaches decision-making, emotional regulation, and communication through three components: Emotional Wellness, CORE, and short targeted modules.
2. Journeys-Paths to Adulthood (5th-8th): Supports identity development and healthy attitudes for adolescence.
3. Triple Play Social Recreation (K-12th): Uses game-based activities to build healthy relationships, emotional regulation, and decision-making.
4. PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) Curricula:
5. Our Stories (5th-10th): Develops emotion regulation and self-expression through storytelling.
6. Photo Justice (4th-8th): Promotes advocacy and perspective-taking through photography.
7. Ready, Set, Action (2nd-5th): Builds teamwork and perseverance through games.
8. StrongLinks (5th-10th): Focuses on social awareness and self-expression.
9. Second Step Program:
 - a. Out of School Time (K-5th): Teaches SEL skills like empathy, problem-solving, and assertiveness.
 - b. Early Learning (Pre-K): Prepares young children for kindergarten by teaching self-regulation and SEL skills.
10. Delivering Prevention Education Curriculum – such as DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) Operation Prevention Curriculum for Opioid Prevention (Target Grades: K-12th): Provides opioid-specific use and misuse prevention education and learning activities for youth, teens, and families (www.operationprevention.com). Operation Prevention resources provide educators with engaging tools and strategies aligned with national health standards. Resources include lessons and activities to educate youth about prescription medication safety, addiction, and substance misuse effects on the body.

Strategy 3: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

This strategy connects families to resources and builds partnerships to provide additional support.

Includes:

1. Individual Counseling and Mentoring: Licensed social workers and interns provide trauma-informed counseling and mentoring using evidence-based frameworks.
2. Referrals to Community Partners: Youth and families are connected to mental health agencies, supportive services, and resources for wrap-around care and holistic support.

Impact Goals and Outcomes:

The MESH Prevention Works Program will directly serve 841 youth annually across Claiborne County at four Club sites, with specific outcomes including:

1. Social and Emotional Learning: At least 70% of participating youth will demonstrate improved social-emotional skills as measured by pre- and post-program assessments.
2. Substance Misuse Prevention: At least 80% of youth will report increased knowledge of opioid and substance misuse impacts and prevention strategies.
3. Positive Relationships: At least 80% of youth will report feeling supported by caring adults, mentors, or peers.

Evaluation and Data Collection

Program effectiveness will be tracked using the following tools:

1. Attendance & Program Tracking Software – Vision Member Tracking System software will be used to record mentor contacts and youth program participation, along with activity implementation.
2. Program Impact Assessments – a research-based measurement youth assessment tool will be used to monitor and measure youth social-emotional learning skills and program experience.
3. Milestone Timeline Mentor Progress Observations – will serve as a reference to evaluate overall program progression success.
4. Youth Participation Surveys – Youth satisfaction and input surveys will be administered to ensure continuous program improvement and to determine future program offerings.
5. Program Specific Pre/Post Surveys – To measure improved knowledge of opioid and substance misuse impacts and prevention.

BGCTNV is requesting \$50,000 to support the MESH Prevention Works Program in Claiborne County. Funds will be used to:

- Train Club Professionals and Partner Staff – Provide training for staff and mentors on trauma-informed care, mentorship, resiliency-building, and substance use prevention.
- Deliver Resiliency Programming for Youth – Support trained staff, volunteers, and social work staff and interns facilitating programs designed to build resiliency factors
- Expand Mental Health Education for Youth – Provide sessions and supports to increase mental health outcomes led by social work staff and interns
- Enhance Afterschool/Out-of-School Programming – Offer structured afterschool and out-of-school programming.
- Provide Substance Use Education – Implement evidence-based substance use prevention education.
- Evaluate Program Outcomes and Impact – Conduct ongoing program assessment and reporting.

This funding will ensure that BGCTNV can sustain and expand these critical services, providing Claiborne

County youth with the support and resources they need to build resilience and prevent substance misuse.

The MESH Prevention Works Program addresses critical gaps in youth mental health and substance misuse prevention services in Claiborne County. By fostering resilience, providing education, and creating positive support systems, this program empowers youth to break cycles of trauma and build a brighter future. We thank the Claiborne County Opioid Abatement Committee for considering this request to invest in our community's most vulnerable youth.

Internal staffing for this project:

Kierra Jones, Vice President of Program Services
Melissa Birkholz, Chief Financial Officer
Carri Russell, Member Social Emotional Health Director & Licensed Masters Social Worker
Sheniah Thomas- Director of Outcomes & Evaluation

External project partners or collaborators (please attach letters of support if possible):

While the MESH Prevention Works Program does not include Claiborne County-specific partnerships with the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, we have included a letter of support from the College, which serves as a critical partner by providing interns who assist with program delivery. These interns play an essential role in supporting our efforts to deliver high-quality, trauma-informed services to Claiborne County youth and families.

Is this a new or existing project? (Check one): New Existing

If existing, have/will you receive grant funding from any other source for this project? No Yes

If yes, please list the grants and amounts:

TN Opioid Abatement Council- Opioid Prevention funding \$450,000
OJJDP- Opioid Prevention Funding \$216,666
TN DMHSAS SMART Moves- \$114,000 (total grant amount)
KLF Opioid Abatement- \$450,000 (\$150,000 per year)

If existing, how will the requested funds be used to supplement rather than supplant the project?

The requested funds for the MESH Prevention Works Program will be used to enhance and expand the existing services in Claiborne County, ensuring that more youth and families benefit from the program. These funds will supplement current resources by addressing gaps in services, increasing program

reach, and improving program quality, rather than replacing existing funding or efforts.

One primary way the funds will supplement the program is by expanding its reach to serve additional youth in Claiborne County who are at high risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and substance misuse. This funding will allow for more Club members to participate in evidence-based prevention education, mentoring, and social-emotional learning (SEL) activities.

Additionally, the requested funds will support staffing enhancements by covering the costs of additional trained mentors, licensed social workers, and program facilitators. This will help reduce staff-to-youth ratios, ensuring individualized attention and more effective support for at-risk youth. The funding will also provide professional development opportunities, equipping staff with the latest training in trauma-informed care and prevention strategies.

The funds will also be used to improve program resources, including updated curricula, educational materials, and technology to support interactive learning and data tracking. These enhancements will ensure that programming remains engaging, effective, and accessible to all participants. Furthermore, the funding will strengthen partnerships with community organizations, allowing the Club to provide more wraparound services such as mental health referrals, family support initiatives, and collaboration with local schools and healthcare providers.

By supplementing existing efforts rather than supplanting them, this funding will allow BGCTNV to expand its impact, improve service delivery, and ensure equitable access to high-quality prevention and mental health resources for Claiborne County youth and families. The investment will not replace current funding but will build upon a strong foundation to address critical community needs.

Supporting Data

Is the project evidence-based or based on promising practices? No Yes

If yes, provide links to supporting evidence:

Please provide data to support the need for the project in the community:

Economic Disadvantage:

Claiborne County faces persistent economic challenges that increase risk factors for youth exposure to trauma and substance misuse. With an estimated 18.2% of residents living below the poverty line, the county's poverty rate is significantly higher than the national average, contributing to financial instability for many families. Economic hardship is associated with greater stress, limited access to supportive resources, and higher risk for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), all factors linked to increased likelihood of substance misuse and mental health challenges later in life.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

Statewide data from the Tennessee Department of Health show that 61% of adult Tennesseans report at least one ACE before age 18, and 27% report three or more. Individuals with multiple ACEs are significantly more likely to struggle with substance misuse, mental health issues, and risk-taking behaviors. Addressing ACEs through prevention, trauma-informed care, and resilience-building programs like MESH is critical to disrupting cycles of adversity and promoting long-term well-being for youth in Claiborne County.

Substance Use and Opioid Crisis:

Tennessee continues to experience one of the highest burdens of opioid-related harms in the nation, with thousands of residents dying annually from drug overdoses, the vast majority involving opioids. While detailed county-level overdose counts may be limited due to reporting constraints, public health data show that rural counties like Claiborne are part of the broader Appalachian region disproportionately affected by opioid misuse, opioid prescribing rates higher than average, and elevated overdose rates compared with national norms. This local and regional context underscores the urgent need for primary prevention, education, and early intervention targeting youth before patterns of misuse take hold.

Mental Health Challenges in Youth:

Nationwide research indicates that approximately **1 in 5 adolescents** aged 13–18 experiences a severe mental health condition, and untreated emotional health issues significantly increase the risk of substance misuse. Programs like MESH Prevention Works that integrate social-emotional learning and counseling address mental health early, strengthening coping strategies and reducing future risk.

Program Impact Data (Claiborne & BGCTNV):

In Claiborne County, 100% of surveyed youth reported improved mental health outcomes after participating in MESH counseling and mentoring efforts, and BGCTNV estimates a \$10.32 positive economic impact for every dollar invested in its prevention and youth development programming. These program outcomes demonstrate both individual and community-wide benefits of sustained investment in evidence-based prevention.

Lack of Accessible Resources:

Many families in Claiborne County encounter barriers to accessing mental health and substance misuse resources due to cost, transportation challenges, and limited local service availability. The MESH Prevention Works Program assists by delivering trauma-informed care, prevention education, and support services directly in community settings accessible to families. This approach closes gaps in the local support infrastructure and expands opportunities for early, prevention-focused intervention.

Project Revenue

Will you charge a fee or bill insurances for the services provided with this project? x No Yes

If yes, please describe for what and the estimated amount:

Subcontracts

Will your organization subcontract for services? x No Yes

If yes, what organization will receive funds from you?

Organization contact name:

Email or phone:

Subcontract amount:

Expected activities:

Data Collection & Use

What system or database will be used to gather and store information relevant to the project?

Vision Member Tracking System

What methods will be employed to track grant-funded activities and specific assistance?

Evaluation and Data Collection Program effectiveness will be tracked using the following tools:

1. Attendance & Program Tracking Software – Vision Member Tracking System software will be used to record mentor contacts and youth program participation, along with activity implementation.
2. Program Impact Assessments – a research-based measurement youth assessment tool will be used to monitor and measure youth social-emotional learning skills and program experience (engagement, choice, challenge, social environment, etc.) impact/satisfaction
3. Milestone Timeline Mentor Progress Observations – will serve as a reference to evaluate overall program progression success
4. Youth Participation Surveys – Youth satisfaction and input surveys will be administered to ensure continuous program improvement and to determine future program offerings
5. Program Specific Pre/Post Surveys - To measure improved knowledge of opioid and substance misuse impacts and prevention for youth that participate in prevention programming.

Who is responsible for the collection and quality assurance of this data?

Carri Russell - Member Social Emotional Health Director & Licensed Masters Social Worker
Sheniah Thomas- Director of Outcomes & Evaluation

Describe how your organization plans to use the gathered data to continuously evaluate the project's progress and effectiveness. Please address how this data will inform future planning.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley (BGCTNV) is committed to leveraging gathered data to continuously evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the MESH Prevention Works Program. By employing evidence-based evaluation methods, we will ensure the program remains impactful and responsive to the needs of Claiborne County youth and families.

To evaluate progress, BGCTNV will track participation and engagement through the Vision Member Tracking System, which records attendance, program completion rates, and mentor contacts. Pre- and post-program assessments will be administered to measure changes in youth knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to social-emotional skills, substance misuse prevention, and emotional well-

being. Additionally, regular feedback from Club professionals and mentors will provide valuable insights into program delivery, helping identify challenges and opportunities for improvement. Effectiveness and outcomes will be assessed using tools such as the Program Impact Assessment, which evaluates social-emotional learning (SEL) improvements in areas like decision-making, self-regulation, and peer relationships. Progress will be measured against operational benchmarks, such as the percentage of youth demonstrating improved SEL skills or increased knowledge of opioid misuse prevention. Qualitative feedback gathered through focus groups and satisfaction surveys will offer a deeper understanding of the program's impact and areas needing refinement. The gathered data will play a critical role in informing future planning. Real-time adjustments will be made based on evaluation results, ensuring the program remains effective and relevant. Insights gained from assessments will guide modifications to curricula, staff training, and delivery methods to enhance outcomes. Demonstrating measurable success will also strengthen funding requests and support sustainability efforts by showcasing the program's impact to current and potential funders. Additionally, sharing data with community partners will foster stronger collaborations and align efforts to address systemic challenges. BGCTNV will also use the data to assess the long-term impact of the program. Whenever possible, we will track program alumni to evaluate how participation influenced their social-emotional well-being, academic success, and decision-making over time. Aggregated data will be used to assess the broader community impact of the program in reducing risk factors for substance misuse and improving overall community health.

Project Work Plan

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

Total Funds Requested: \$50,000

Overall Goal(s) of Project: See Objectives

Objectives What is the measurable objective you are seeking to achieve?	Activities What activities will be completed that help achieve the corresponding objective?	Remediation Strategy Please use the TN OAC's table (linked).	Outcomes What measurable results are you seeking to achieve by completing the corresponding activities?	Measures of Success How will the success of the outcomes be assessed? What data points will be measured?	Timeframe When will this part of the project begin and end?	Accountability Who is responsible for each project activity?	Funds Requested What are the requested grant funds for this part of the project?
Enhance social and emotional skill development to build resilience and reduce risk factors associated with substance misuse.	Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff Resiliency Programming for youth Mental Health Education for Youth Afterschool/Out of School Programming Substance Use Education Program Outcome Evaluation & Reporting	A1 GG7 GG8 GG11 GG12	At least 70% of participating youth will demonstrate improved social-emotional skills as measured by pre-and post-program assessments.	Attendance & Program Tracking Software Milestone Timeline Mentor Progress Observations Youth Participation Surveys	April 1, 2026- March 31, 2027	Carri Russell, Member Social Emotional Health Director	\$50,000
Create safe, positive spaces where youth can develop strong relationships with caring adults and peers.	Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff Mental Health Education for Youth Afterschool/Out of School Programming	A1 GG7 GG12	At least 80% of youth will report feeling supported by caring adults, mentors, or peers.	BGCA NYOI Surveys & Program Impact Assessments Milestone Timeline Mentor	April 1, 2026- March 31, 2027	Carri Russell, Member Social Emotional Health Director Club Directors & Staff	\$30,000

Program Outcome Evaluation & Reporting	Deliver evidence-based opioid and substance misuse prevention education to youth and families.	Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff Substance Use Education	<p>A1</p> <p>GG7</p> <p>GG11</p> <p>I</p>	At least 80% of youth will report increased knowledge of opioid and substance misuse impacts and prevention strategies	Progress Observations Youth Participation Surveys	April 1, 2026- March 31, 2027	Carri Russell, Member Social Emotional Health Director Club Directors & Staff	\$40,000
Program Outcome Evaluation & Reporting	Engage families and foster community partnerships to address broader support needs.	Training Club Professionals and Partner Staff Afterschool/Out of School Programming	<p>A1</p> <p>GG7</p> <p>I</p>	At least 80% of families and community partners will feel engaged	Progress Observations and Surveys DEA's Operation Prevention Pre/Post Surveys	April 1, 2026- March 31, 2027	Carri Russell, Member Social Emotional Health Director & Licensed Masters Social Worker	\$25,000

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley
 FY26 Budget
 For Period Ending June 30, 2026



	FY26 Budget	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
OPERATING REVENUE													
1 Operating Contributions	\$2,493,000	\$139,393	\$98,373	\$121,846	\$284,396	\$430,839	\$554,898	\$190,780	\$138,683	\$135,892	\$39,700	\$195,990	\$162,211
1E Special Events, Net	847,200	0	155,000	35,000	42,985	83,661	21,210	123,344	0	(4,000)	375,000	15,000	0
1EE Endowment Earnings - Released to Operating	125,694	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474	10,474
2 Restricted Contributions & Non-Govt Grants	571,790	130,891	21,107	45,298	21,578	45,788	101,555	43,762	22,491	48,082	24,842	17,934	48,461
3 BGCA Grants	107,500	13,750	8,750	8,750	8,750	21,250	7,750	1,250	7,750	7,750	7,750	7,750	5,250
4 United Way	369,013	58,125	0	34,128	58,125	0	34,128	58,125	0	34,128	58,125	0	34,128
5 USDA Food Program	405,000	0	34,620	55,290	43,538	40,286	36,403	37,912	31,441	56,874	36,600	28,540	3,496
6 Government Grants	5,507,365	376,134	456,853	458,453	464,034	457,060	457,166	453,560	477,085	469,515	473,050	472,295	492,157
7 KCDC	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Vendor Voucher	633,108	45,657	45,657	45,657	45,980	45,980	45,980	54,076	54,076	54,076	65,323	65,323	65,323
9 Program Fees	2,082,570	279,667	182,038	147,080	190,778	147,080	77,163	147,080	147,080	190,778	147,080	112,121	314,626
10 Rental Income	440,167	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	36,333	40,500
11 Miscellaneous	281,700	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475	23,475
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	13,964,106	1,113,900	1,172,681	1,021,785	1,230,446	1,342,227	1,407,537	1,180,172	948,889	1,063,378	1,297,752	985,237	1,200,101
OPERATING EXPENSES													
13 Salary & Wages - FT	4,592,687	393,445	395,030	381,339	379,921	379,531	379,531	383,196	381,204	380,954	380,814	380,814	376,907
13 Salary & Wages - PT	2,773,079	355,872	214,490	196,203	224,974	178,256	201,322	218,196	201,913	219,162	210,735	204,135	347,823
13 Salary & Wages - PT (TN ALL CORPS tutors)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Employee Benefits	354,592	32,044	29,766	29,766	29,290	29,290	29,290	29,290	29,171	29,171	29,171	29,171	29,171
15 Employee Retirement	87,699	7,266	7,266	7,266	7,266	7,266	7,266	7,350	7,350	7,350	7,350	7,350	7,350
16 Worker's Compensation	43,656	4,459	3,542	3,428	3,592	3,310	3,553	3,448	3,462	3,564	3,512	3,473	4,311
17 Payroll Taxes	522,860	56,852	45,167	43,711	42,053	38,450	40,214	41,557	40,387	41,688	41,033	40,528	51,221
18 Recruitment/Hiring Costs	21,440	833	1,183	833	833	1,083	833	4,573	1,183	833	833	1,083	833
SUBTOTAL	8,396,013	850,771	696,445	669,047	687,929	637,186	661,905	687,715	664,671	682,722	673,449	666,555	817,617
19 Professional Fees	761,956	53,089	54,883	52,483	48,290	49,880	129,983	65,460	49,605	93,474	64,041	51,206	49,566
20 Office Supplies	10,000	1,240	605	565	430	1,105	1,270	1,210	545	445	1,120	545	920
21 Program Supplies - Unrestricted	84,725	6,400	9,855	2,950	5,905	5,150	7,505	2,550	4,000	6,180	2,550	24,230	7,450
22 Program Supplies - Restricted	1,592,860	130,216	127,050	132,086	133,995	130,635	124,430	110,754	140,358	131,801	137,241	128,517	165,777
23 Food Costs	435,000	0	43,720	44,341	56,065	43,596	29,563	42,599	40,647	45,582	39,655	29,715	19,517
24 Telecommunications	209,053	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421	17,421
25 Postage & Shipping	12,800	775	1,250	250	1,450	3,000	500	1,275	1,000	1,250	275	500	1,275
26 Rent Expense	149,637	11,868	12,080	12,606	12,080	12,606	11,553	13,106	13,106	12,580	13,106	12,580	12,368
27 Building & Equip Maintenance/Repairs	271,939	23,328	24,496	21,496	21,496	23,706	20,366	20,866	23,366	22,496	21,496	24,496	24,328
28 Utilities	290,070	27,180	28,815	27,180	23,495	20,085	25,780	25,780	27,625	24,075	22,790	19,650	22,490
29 Equipment & Software Leases/Rentals	137,104	11,555	15,205	15,934	11,684	12,684	15,934	8,518	7,518	11,268	8,018	7,518	11,268
30 Printing, Promotion & Publications	33,800	2,250	4,650	3,525	3,300	1,250	9,075	1,300	3,250	925	2,200	500	1,575
31 Fleet Transportation	474,743	18,070	43,280	42,115	48,565	41,840	49,114	41,780	42,115	44,965	42,115	49,640	11,144
32 Travel Expenses	62,000	7,702	4,684	8,605	5,102	4,221	3,786	2,332	3,512	11,623	1,656	4,908	3,867
33 Training & Meetings	43,350	1,300	6,815	4,790	1,340	4,365	7,440	1,640	2,240	5,102	1,490	4,690	2,100
34 Dues	99,950	9,932	9,967	7,768	8,067	7,467	7,832	8,367	7,467	9,102	9,042	7,467	7,467
35 Interest Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Insurance (Non-Health)	161,602	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467	13,467
37A BadDebt Expense	301,516	41,950	26,219	20,975	27,530	20,975	10,488	20,975	20,975	27,530	20,975	15,731	47,194
37B Bank/Investment Fees	50,800	5,400	3,650	3,650	5,400	3,650	3,650	5,400	3,650	3,650	5,400	3,650	500
37D Donor Cultivation	7,300	1,575	500	500	575	500	500	575	500	500	575	500	500
37D Miscellaneous Expense	31,700	1,558	3,083	3,208	1,558	4,183	5,408	1,183	1,683	3,783	1,183	1,433	3,433
38 Undocumented Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,617,918	1,237,048	1,148,140	1,104,963	1,135,145	1,058,974	1,152,096	1,094,273	1,088,722	1,169,979	1,099,266	1,084,919	1,244,394
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Operations	346,187	(123,149)	24,541	(83,178)	95,301	283,254	255,441	85,899	(139,833)	(106,600)	198,487	(99,682)	(44,292)



Tennessee Department of Human Services
Business License Oath

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF Knox

I, Bart McFadden hereby certify that the below is true and accurate.

My agency has obtained all necessary business license(s) to operate in its location

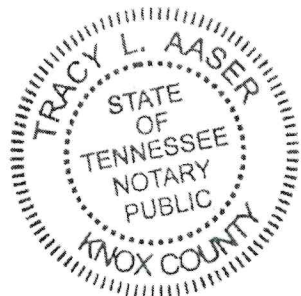
My agency is exempted from having to obtain a business license

My agency has not yet received the required business license(s)

Signature of Applicant

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of April, 2025.

Notary Public



My commission expires: 5/3/28



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

May 9, 2024
Bart McFadden, President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley
967 Irwin Street
Knoxville, TN 37917

Dear Mr. McFadden,

As you know, UT CSW has had a long successful partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, as your agency has hosted Bachelor of Science Social Work (BSSW) and Masters of Science in Social Work (MSSW) students to complete field placements (internships) at Club sites, under the supervision of your Social Workers on staff, so that our BSSW and MSSW may gain experience in the field while also supporting youth and families in need at the Boys & Girls Club. In continuing our partnership, we commit to the following:

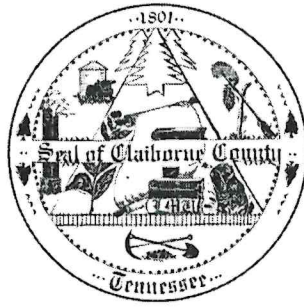
- Sending BSW and/or MSW students who are interested in a field placement at Boys & Girls Club, to Boys & Girls Clubs' MESH (Member Emotional and Social Health Program), so that students, under the supervision of your Licensed Social Workers, may offer counseling, mentoring, and guidance to youth and families in need of support.
- Collaboratively working together to support the needs of you, families, and communities in Knoxville and the surrounding areas.
- Sharing resources regarding trauma-informed care for youth and families that we know are from our Trauma Treatment Graduate Certificate Program, if able to support Boys & Girls Clubs' Program.

As a long-standing partner with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, the University of Tennessee College of Social Work is pleased to continue to work with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley through this program.

Sincerely,

Kind Regards,

Kim Denton, L.C.S.W.
Associate Director of BSSW Field Education
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
College of Social Work
Knoxville, TN 37996-3333
(865) 974-6677
kddenton@utk.edu



Claiborne County Opioid Settlement Funding

2026 Announcement of Funding

Due to the extensive damage and loss of life caused by the opioid crisis that was brought on by the unethical and over-prescribing of opioid medications, the state of Tennessee will be receiving over \$1 billion over 18 years in settlement funds from several large corporations. Claiborne County has been allocated a portion of these funds, which will be received in annual payments. The County has established the Claiborne County Opioid Board to oversee the spending of these funds to ensure they are used to remediate the opioid crisis and save lives. The Board will invite community organizations to apply for these funds annually.

Availability of Funds

The selection process for funding will utilize a competitive process, and the number of awards will be dependent on the amount of funds available for annual allocation. The amount of funds available and dates of application submissions and awards will differ annually. The amount of funds available for the 2026 funding cycle will be **\$150,000.00** distributed in the form of three separate grants totaling **\$50,000.000**, and proposals will be accepted between **January 1st – February 28th, 2026**.

Up to 20% of the available funds can be held back at the discretion of the Claiborne County Opioid Board each funding cycle for urgent needs that may arise between annual funding periods. If the holdback funds are not allocated prior to the next funding cycle, they will be included in the total amount available for distribution.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from any organization that serves residents of Claiborne County but will only be distributed to those that provide services that fall within the approved remediation uses set forth by the TN Opioid Abatement Council, listed below in Allowable Uses of Funds and outlined in [Exhibit E](#). If an applying organization is located outside of Claiborne County, funds will only be awarded to that organization if they are used to serve Claiborne County residents. The Claiborne County Opioid Board will dispense funds in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations that counties must adhere to when allocating funds to community organizations.

Required Documents for Application Submission

Proposals are due by **February 28th, 2026, at 11:59 pm**, and must be submitted to the Claiborne County Mayor's Office by emailing opiod@claibornecountyttn.gov with the following required documents:

- Application for funding with a completed budget and work plan
- Current annual operating budget
- State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable
- Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators if applicable

Selection and Award Process

The Claiborne County Opioid Board will review and score all applications received. The board will consider scores and along with other factors to make funding decisions. These factors may include county priorities, community needs, funds available, cost-effectiveness, and federal and state regulations. If the total amount requested is higher than the total amount available for distribution, applicants may be contacted to discuss possible project and/or budget revisions.

The County Mayor and Claiborne County Commission will have final approval of any funding recommendations provided by the Claiborne County Opioid Board.

Notice of award is expected to occur by **June 1st, 2026**. Following the notice of award, the organizations will be contacted to discuss the contract process and specific metrics that must be reported back to the county.

The funding period will be *12 months in duration* beginning **July 1st, 2026**, unless an alternative project start date is agreed upon by the awardee and Claiborne County Finance Director.

Allowable Uses of Funds & Funding Restrictions

Awarded funds cannot be used for administrative or indirect costs. Activities must meet the definition of opioid remediation, be evidence-based strategies or promising practices, and align with the core strategies and allowable uses outlined by [Exhibit E](#). The Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council (TN OAC) adjusted Exhibit E into the [Remediation List Strategies](#). Organizations will be asked to use this document when applying and for reporting purposes if funded. Core strategies include:

- Naloxone or other FDA-approved drugs to reverse opioid overdoses
- Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) distribution and other opioid-related treatment
- Address the needs of pregnant and postpartum women
- Expanding treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
- Treatment for incarcerated population
- Prevention programs
- Expanding syringe service programs
- Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the state

Requirements if Awarded Funding

Organizations awarded funding are required to:

- Utilize funds within the defined funding period as agreed upon in the contract. If those funds are not used as agreed in the contract the applicant may:
 - Return any remaining funds to the Claiborne County Opioid Board at the end of the funding period, OR
 - Request an extension to use the funds past the funding period, OR
 - Request an amendment to their current contract to use the remaining funds for additional strategies
- Ensure utilization of funds supplements, rather than supplants, existing funding

- Ensure all funds are used in alignment with remediation uses approved by the TN Opioid Abatement Council as described above
- Ensure funds are not used for administrative or indirect costs
- Provide data on program outputs, outcomes, impact, and effectiveness as determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board
- Complete and submit required quarterly and annual reports to the county

Reporting Requirements

Recipients must provide **quarterly project reports** to opiod@claibornecountytn.gov starting **October 15th, 2026**, or **15 days after the first project quarter** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The reports must outline:

- Staff working on the project
- Community partners involved with the project
- Challenges and barriers experienced within the associated timeframe
- Successes experienced within the associated timeframe
- Anticipated next steps
- Strategies addressed
- Number of Claiborne County residents served with settlement funding
- All project-specific metrics determined by the Claiborne County Opioid Board

An **annual report** is to be provided following project close by **July 31st, 2026**, or **30 days after project close** if an alternative start date is agreed upon. The annual report must include all the above data and be submitted to opiod@claibornecountytn.gov.

Application Checklist

To be considered a complete application and qualify for funding, the following items must be submitted:

Grant application for funding

Completed budget & budget narrative

Completed work plan

Current annual operating budget

State certification, licensure, or accreditation if applicable

Letters of support from any project partners or collaborators

Section Two: Funding Information

Total Funding Request: \$ 50,000.00

What percentage of the *total project cost* will the requested funds cover? 70%

What percentage of *funds requested* will be used to serve residents of Claiborne County? 90%

Funding currently beginning received from Claiborne County

Amount: \$2,500.00 annually Purpose: Claiborne County contributes funds which help to supply LFC's Emergency Food Pantry.

Budget Narrative

Please provide a detailed justification for each line item in the budget, explaining how these expenses support the project's objectives and goals. We recommend filling out the Budget first and then filling out this section.

This project requires an additional staff member, a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), to establish a harm-reduction-oriented clinical intervention program to reduce infectious disease transmission and injection-related complications among a population that LFC presently serves, persons who inject drugs (PWID). The project prioritizes timely access to care, early clinical intervention, and patient-centered services that meet participants where they are, recognizing that traditional healthcare settings often present barriers related to stigma, access, and mistrust.

LFC intends to hire an LPN at a salary of \$41,600.00 per year. This position is a non-benefited position and the salary proposed includes payroll taxes.

Medical supplies are budgeted as an average monthly cost based on market prices/prior purchasing and anticipated service volume for approximately 100 patients annually. These supplies include all items that are necessary to assess and treat wounds and to perform HIV/HCV testing. Test kits are provided by Tennessee Department of Health.

Office and recordkeeping supplies are budgeted as an average monthly cost to support program start-up and ongoing administrative operations such as a computer, software, general office supplies, and secured storage cabinets.

Sustainability

Please provide information about how this project will be sustained after the funding period. Include details such as other grants or funding sources that the organization has or plans to obtain.

LFC is committed to sustaining this project beyond the initial one-year funding period through a diversified funding strategy. Currently, LFC has been awarded funding through the CDC Integrated HIV Surveillance and Prevention Program and the TDMHSAS ARP program, and we will continue to pursue renewal of these annual funding sources. In addition, LFC actively seeks new grant opportunities, with board members contributing time and expertise to identify funding streams and assist in grant writing to ensure continuity of services.

To further strengthen long-term sustainability, LFC is developing a plan to implement Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services and Alcohol and Drug (A&D) assessments beginning in 2027. These clinical services will be structured to allow for third-party reimbursement, including TennCare and private insurance billing. Revenue generated through these billable services will provide a consistent and sustainable funding stream to support key staff positions, including the LPN role, and to expand access to integrated care for participants.

This combined approach—leveraging grant funding, expanding billable clinical services, and maintaining strong organizational support—positions LFC to sustain and grow the proposed services well beyond the grant period.

Budget Template for Opioid Settlement Funding

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: Live Free – Claiborne

Expense or Activity	Description	Strategy Addressed	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
New Staff member	LPN	Harm Reduction	\$3466.67	12 months	\$41,600.00
Personal Protective Equipment	Gloves, face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer	Harm Reduction	\$90.00	12 months	\$1,080.00
Wound Care Supplies & Infection Prevention	Wound irrigation and wash, ointment, dressings, bandaging, wound care tools, assessment supplies, sharps containers	Harm Reduction	\$350.00	12 months	\$4,200.00
Office, Recordkeeping, and Technology Supplies	Laptop, software, paper, pens, file folders, storage cabinets, shelving	Harm Reduction	\$260.00	12 months	\$3,120.00
			\$0.00		\$0.00
			\$0.00		\$0.00
Project Total =					\$50,000.00

Section Three: Project Information

Project Details

Project title: Project SHIELD (Screening, Healthcare, Infection Education, Linkage and Disease Prevention)

Strategies that will be addressed with funds (Select all that apply):	Primary Prevention	Recovery Support
	X Harm Reduction	X Education & Training
	X Treatment	Research & Evaluation

Target population and geographical area: Persons who inject drugs in Claiborne County

Anticipated number of people served with requested funds: 100 people

Project description (it is recommended to complete the Work Plan first, then fill this section out):

Project SHIELD will establish harm-reduction–oriented clinical intervention to reduce infectious disease transmission and injection-related complications among persons who inject drugs (PWID). The project prioritizes timely access to care, early clinical intervention, and patient-centered services that meet participants where they are, recognizing that traditional healthcare settings often present barriers related to stigma, access, and mistrust.

A central objective of the project is to **initiate treatment within one week of a positive HIV/HCV test result**. Rapid treatment initiation is a core infectious disease prevention strategy, particularly for conditions such as Hepatitis C and HIV, where delays in care contribute to ongoing transmission and poor health outcomes. This funding will support the development of streamlined testing-to-treatment pathways, including prompt follow-up, clinical assessment, and linkage to treatment services. By reducing delays between diagnosis and care, the project seeks to improve treatment uptake, reduce community-level transmission risk, and strengthen ongoing engagement in care. Rapid linkage to treatment following positive HIV and HCV test results has been shown to improve treatment initiation, retention in care, and reduce transmission risk, particularly among populations with unstable access to healthcare. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2023) (World Health Organization [WHO], 2022).

The project will also **provide comprehensive, harm-reduction–informed wound care services which will alleviate the need for invasive procedures in an acute-care setting**. Harm reduction–based wound care and early clinical intervention for PWID are associated with reductions in soft tissue infections, abscesses, and preventable hospitalizations, and are recognized as effective public health strategies by federal and international health agencies. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2023) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2023). Routine wound assessments, early identification of infection, and provision of evidence-based wound care—including cleansing, dressing changes, and education on safer injection and skin care practices—will be integrated into service delivery. These interventions are designed to reduce bacterial infections, prevent abscess formation, and support wound healing while maintaining a nonjudgmental, participant-centered approach.

Through early identification and consistent management of wounds, Project SHIELD further aims to reduce the need for surgical intervention, emergency department utilization, and hospitalization. Injection-related wounds are a significant driver of preventable healthcare utilization among PWID; addressing these wounds

If yes, please list the grants and amounts:

If existing, how will the requested funds be used to supplement rather than supplant the project?

Supporting Data

Is the project evidence-based or based on promising practices? No Yes

If yes, provide links to supporting evidence:

Evidence shows nurse-led screening and education for PWID significantly increases HCV and HIV testing, enhances the receipt of results, and improves linkage to care. There is also evidence to show that harm reduction-based wound care and early clinical intervention for PWID are associated with reductions in infections, abscesses, and preventable hospitalizations. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2023). Nurse-initiated rapid testing in Veterans Affairs (VA) settings effectively increased screening rates and, when combined with streamlined counseling, improved the receipt of results. (Anaya, 2008). High treatment initiation and sustained virologic responses (SVR) rates were noted by integrating care into harm reduction/addiction services and providing tailored education overcoming barriers like stigma and complex health needs. (New York State Department of Health, 2024). Providing a nurse-led screening and education program improves outcomes by meeting participants where they are, increasing awareness and education, and making it easier for participants to receive treatment, thereby reducing infectious disease and mortality.

Empowering nurses to conduct general health assessments, identify acute and chronic conditions commonly associated with substance use, perform wound care treatments, test, educate, and manage HCV/HIV for PWID addresses barriers of stigma and lack of follow-up care. When these services are delivered in familiar settings, such as a syringe exchange where a relationship of trust has already been built, nurse-led models will lead to improved continuity of care from testing to treatment. (Stivala, 2022)

Sources:

Anaya HD, Hoang T, Golden JF, Goetz MB, Gifford A, Bowman C, Osborn T, Owens DK, Sanders GD, Asch SM. Improving HIV screening and receipt of results by nurse-initiated streamlined counseling and rapid testing. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2008 Jun;23(6):800-7. doi: 10.1007/s11606-008-0617-x. Epub 2008 Apr 18. PMID: 18421508; PMCID: PMC2517869.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). *Viral hepatitis surveillance and prevention among people who use drugs*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

New York State Department of Health. (2024). *Addressing barriers to hepatitis C treatment access among people who inject drugs in New York State*. https://www.health.state.ny.us/./addressing_barriers.pdf

Stivala, A. FNP (2022). *Hepatitis C and Stigma: Breaking Down Barriers to Care* [Power Point Slides]. Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, New York, New York.
<https://nurseledcare.phmc.org/images/pdf/nttap/HCV%20and%20Stigma%20Slides.pdf>

Please provide data to support the need for the project in the community:

During 2025, LFC provided services to 394 individuals participating in syringe services, representing a population at elevated risk for bloodborne infections and limited access to traditional healthcare. Among those served, 42 individuals received HCV testing, with 19 testing positive, resulting in a positivity rate of approximately 45%. This rate is substantially higher than that observed in the general population and reflects an ongoing, unmet need for targeted infectious disease screening, early treatment initiation, and linkage to care within the community.

Although no HIV-positive results were identified during this testing period, the absence of positive HIV tests should be interpreted within the context of continued risk. Individuals accessing syringe services remain vulnerable to HIV transmission due to injection-related and social determinants of health, including unstable housing, limited access to preventive services, and barriers to consistent medical care. Ongoing HIV testing remains a critical component of prevention, early detection, and community-level disease control.

The high prevalence of HCV identified through program-based testing underscores the necessity of low-barrier, community-based services that integrate screening, education, and rapid linkage to treatment. Without accessible services, many individuals with HCV may remain undiagnosed or untreated, increasing the likelihood of disease progression and continued transmission.

Project SHIELD directly addresses these gaps by expanding testing capacity, improving follow-up for positive results, and strengthening pathways to care for individuals who are disproportionately affected by HCV and other infectious diseases. The data from 2025 demonstrates both sustained community engagement and a clear, ongoing need for continued and expanded services.

Project Revenue

Will you charge a fee or bill insurances for the services provided with this project? No Yes

If yes, please describe for what and the estimated amount:

Subcontracts

Will your organization subcontract for services? No Yes

If yes, what organization will receive funds from you?

Organization contact name:

Email or phone:

Subcontract amount:

Expected activities:

Data Collection & Use

What system or database will be used to gather and store information relevant to the project?

Project SHIELD data will be collected and maintained using a HIPAA-compliant hybrid medical record system that integrates electronic and paper-based documentation to support accurate clinical care and reporting.

Wound care services will be documented using a standardized wound care assessment form, which captures assessment findings, services provided, and follow-up needs. HCV and HIV testing data, including testing volumes and results, will be securely recorded and managed in REDCap, a HIPAA-compliant web-based tool used by the Tennessee Department of Health for managing disease surveillance and reporting.

SimplePractice, a secure, HIPAA-compliant online platform that allows users to schedule appointments, complete intake forms, and view documents, will be used for scheduling, progress notes, and provider documentation. This system supports coordinated care and continuity of services. Access to electronic systems will be restricted to authorized staff through password protection and role-based permissions.

Paper records will be stored in locked, secure locations, and all electronic and paper records will be maintained in compliance with HIPAA privacy and security standards and applicable confidentiality requirements.

What methods will be employed to track grant-funded activities and specific assistance?

Grant-funded activities and specific assistance will be systematically tracked to ensure accurate documentation, quality assurance, and compliance with reporting requirements. Activities monitored will include HCV and HIV testing, test results, follow-up care, and wound care assessment and treatment.

Point-of-care testing will be used for HCV and HIV screening, with results documented at the time of service. Testing volumes, results, and follow-up outcomes will be securely recorded and managed using REDCap, a HIPAA-compliant web-based tool that supports data aggregation and grant reporting.

Wound care services will be tracked using a standardized wound care assessment and treatment form, which documents wound type, severity, interventions provided, supplies used, and follow-up or referral needs. Wound care data will be incorporated into the participant's medical record and reviewed through Routine Outcome Monitoring to assess healing progress, continuity of care, and service utilization over time.

Together, these methods ensure comprehensive tracking of grant-funded activities, support performance monitoring, and promote accountability and data integrity.

Who is responsible for the collection and quality assurance of this data?

Data collection and quality assurance of this data will be conducted through a collaborative, role-defined process to ensure accuracy, completeness, and compliance with clinical and reporting standards.

The LPN will be primarily responsible for frontline data collection, including documentation of HCV and HIV testing, test results, wound care assessments and treatments, and follow-up services at the point of care.

The LPN will ensure that all data entries are entered accurately and in a timely manner using standardized forms and approved data systems.

The Executive Director will provide oversight of data management processes, including review of aggregated data, monitoring of performance metrics, and ensuring compliance with grant requirements and organizational policies. LFC's Executive Director is also an LPN. (LPN License #80989)

The Supervising Physician will provide clinical oversight and quality assurance, reviewing documentation for clinical accuracy, adherence to protocols, and appropriateness of care. Together, these roles ensure data integrity, clinical quality, and accountability for grant-funded activities.

Describe how your organization plans to use the gathered data to continuously evaluate the project's progress and effectiveness. Please address how this data will inform future planning.

LFC intends to continuously evaluate the project's progress and effectiveness using quantitative and qualitative metrics. Key metrics such as testing rates and linkage to care will be tracked and utilized to drive improvement, resource allocation, and intervention design for future planning and sustainability.

Quantitative Metrics

- **Process Measures:** Screening rates, linkage to care rates, completion of education sessions, missed appointments, referrals made.
- **Outcome Measures:** New HIV/HCV diagnoses, adherence rates.

Qualitative Metrics

- **Patient Surveys/Interviews:** Assess satisfaction, perceived barriers, understanding of education.
- **Tools:** Standardized questionnaires, semi-structured interviews.

Future planning and sustainability will be evaluated by initially defining success metrics, such as an increase in testing rates by 20% in six months, an increase in linkage to care by 35% in six months, etc. LFC also intends to use a Plan-Do-Study-Act review method for quality improvement, where a problem is identified, a procedure is implemented, data is analyzed, and change is adopted.

This approach combines process evaluation with outcome evaluation. By incorporating data collection, nursing workflow, and quality improvement principles, Project SHIELD will ensure that it remains effective for the needs of our community, especially those persons who inject drugs.

Project Work Plan

Instructions: Add or delete rows as necessary. The TN OAC's remediation list must be used to determine which strategies are addressed.

Organization: Live Free - Claiborne

Total Funds Requested: \$50,000.00

Overall Goal(s) of Project: To support opioid abatement efforts, the goal of this project is to reduce opioid-related harm and associated health complications by providing low-barrier HCV and HIV testing, timely follow-up and linkage to care, and comprehensive wound care services for individuals impacted by opioid use, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing preventable morbidity in the community.

Objectives	Activities	Remediation Strategy	Outcomes	Measures of Success	Timeframe	Accountability	Funds Requested
What is the measurable objective you are seeking to achieve?	What activities will be completed that help achieve the corresponding objective?	Please use the TN OAC's table (linked).	What measurable results are you seeking to achieve by completing the corresponding activities?	How will the success of the outcomes be assessed? What data points will be measured?	When will this part of the project begin and end?	Who is responsible for each project activity?	What are the requested grant funds for this part of the project?
By the end of the grant period, 1)Increased HCV and HIV testing among PWID. 2)Of those testing positive, follow-up and/or treatment will commence within 1 week of positive result.	A harm-reduction-oriented clinical intervention program will be established and led by an LPN. The LPN will develop a relationship with LFC participants while providing screenings, education, linkage to care, and addressing barriers to stigma and meeting participants where they are.	Harm Reduction H1, HH9, HH10, HH11 Treatment DD5	Testing will increase by 75% and of those testing positive, follow-up and/or treatment will commence within 1 week of positive result in 80% of participants.	Outcomes will be assessed by: Improvement in disease-specific markers, symptom reduction, better physical function, better quality of life, slower disease advancement, reduced risk of complications, fewer adverse events, participant adherence to prescribed treatments and	LFC intends to begin this part of the project immediately upon hiring the LPN. Plans for sustainability will be implemented in order to continue this program.	The LPN is responsible for these activities with oversight by the Executive Director and Supervising Physician.	\$41,600.00

follow-up appointments, and efficient use of resources. Data points will be assessed using:
 Clinical data, functional data, patient reported outcome measures (PROMs), utilization data, patient experience data, and timeliness data.

<p>By the end of the grant period, participants receiving wound care services will demonstrate improved wound healing without the need for referral to emergency or inpatient care.</p>	<p>1)LPN will implement a standardized wound assessment tool, establish a protocol for regular wound measurement (size, depth, exudate, odor, tissue type), and produce an individualized wound care plan for each patient based on assessment to include dressing schedule, debridement if needed, moisture</p>	<p>Harm Reduction H1, HH9, HH10, HH11 Treatment DD5</p>	<p>70% of tracked wounds decrease in size by at least 30–50% over 8 weeks.</p>	<p>The following data points will be measured: 1)Wound Healing Metrics - wound size (length × width), depth, tissue type (% granulation, necrotic tissue), exudate amount and type, infection signs (redness, warmth, odor)</p>	<p>LFC intends to begin this part of the project immediately upon hiring the LPN. Plans for sustainability will be implemented in order to continue this program.</p>	<p>The LPN is responsible for these activities with oversight by the Executive Director and Supervising Physician.</p>	<p>\$8,400.00</p>
<p>2)Process Metrics -</p>							

balance management and nutrition and hydration interventions.

2) Infection control measures will be utilized such as strict hand hygiene protocols, use of PPE when managing wounds and proper disposal of dressings and sharps.

3) Participants will be educated on proper hygiene, nutrition, and dressing care if appropriate and strongly encouraged to adhere to follow-up appointments.

4) LPN will review progress of wound(s) and identify barriers to healing and implement corrective actions.

compliance with dressing schedules, documentation completeness and accuracy, frequency of wound reassessment

3) Patient-Centered Outcomes - pain levels (0–10 scale), patient satisfaction with care, number of wound-related complications or infections

4) Comparative Metrics - baseline wound status vs. current status, healing rate (%) per wound type, average time to wound closure