



Director's Update

In June, we had the opportunity to announce our third round of grant awards from the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission – bringing our total to over \$55 million invested in lifesaving programs across our Commonwealth. On the heels of this milestone, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on our work. Serving as the Executive Director of the Commission has given me the opportunity to hear and see some of the great work taking place in the Commonwealth to fight against substance use disorder. So, most importantly I want to thank all the members of our Commonwealth for the work being done.

If you did not see the details for the most recent award announcements, you should know that 51 grants totaling more than \$12 million were awarded by the Commission. In making decisions on these awards, the Commission had the challenge of reviewing more than 160 separate requests, which were seeking more than \$80 million in funding. As you all know, the need exceeds the funds available.

On June 20, 2024, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced this round of awards at Lexington's DV8 Kitchen. DV8 Kitchen is a restaurant providing fair chance employment to people in early stages of recovery. The restaurant received a \$151,000 grant award to provide ongoing services to people working in the restaurants to support recovery. Also highlighted at the Attorney General's announcement was the work of Chrysalis House, which will receive a new grant supporting the treatment of pregnant and parenting women. During the announcement, we had the privilege of hearing from Mindy Street, who works at DV8 Kitchen and has been supported in her journey by Chrysalis House, about the lifechanging importance of this work.

To see more on the announcement, Mindy's story, and the work of DV8 Kitchen and Chrysalis House, follow this link: [Opioid abatement grants support mission of Lexington's DV8\(spectrumnews1.com\)](https://www.kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=1585) and <https://www.kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=1585>

To meet our mandate of ensuring the funds received by the Commonwealth are benefiting those impacted by opioid disorder, substance use disorder, and co-occurring mental health issues, we have begun to upgrade our review processes and accountability work. This is another effort you can anticipate hearing more about in future updates.

Again, thank you to all the organizations doing work to help many of our fellow Kentuckians who are going through difficult times. We look forward to continuing to update you on the work of the Commission and highlighting the uplifting work of grant recipients to save lives throughout the Commonwealth.

Chris Evans

Executive Director and Chair

Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission