

2023-2028 Alcohol Tax Fund Funding Priorities

By legislative mandate (KSA §79-41a04 as amended), ATF dollars must be used to fund services or programs whose principal purpose is substance abuse education, prevention, detoxification, intervention and/or treatment. Programs funded through the ATF grant process create a substance use continuum of services. Programs are defined as follows:

- Education and Prevention programs are designed to promote awareness and self-efficacy, and provide information, activities, and skill building to prevent problems with, or addiction to, alcohol and/or drugs.
- Intervention programs are designed to interrupt alcohol and/or drug use and may include involvement in activities applied during early stages of substance use which may prevent the transition from drug use to abuse.
- Substance Abuse Treatment programs are licensed by the State of Kansas to provide substance use disorder treatment services, including detoxification, and are designed to assist clients with discontinuing the use of alcohol and drugs and recovery programs supporting a reduction in relapse.

Overall priority is given to:

- Programs that target populations who are at-risk for substance use or abuse including individuals who have mental health issues, people who are homeless and/or have other co-occurring issues, and those involved in the child welfare or criminal justice system.
- Programs that address barriers to service including hours of operation, transportation, lack of care for children of parents seeking services, and physical location.
- If fees are charged for services, there are accommodations for clients with no ability, or limited ability, to pay the fees including a sliding fee scale based upon income.
- Programs that demonstrate competency in addressing language and cultural barriers and provide bi-lingual services in multiple languages, such as Spanish.
- Programs that provide services to meet a current community need defined through indicator data or *Communities That Care* survey trends.
- Programs that demonstrate an awareness of the negative impact of trauma in the prevention and treatment of substance use and utilize a trauma-informed care approach in the delivery of services.
- Programs that are evidence-based or reflect a best or promising practice and include measures to ensure fidelity.
- Programs that utilize measurable outcome data to improve service delivery.
- Strategies and services that involve families, parents, guardians, and/or other support systems.
- Programs that demonstrate coordination and collaboration with other agencies that support the substance abuse continuum of services in Johnson County and provide connection to community supports.
- Programs that demonstrate through service delivery, competency in addressing the interrelationship between substance use/abuse and other risk factors as defined above.

Priorities for Education and Prevention Programs include:

- Strategies that seek to delay the onset of the initial use of substances.
- Programs that target use of gateway drugs and address new trends in drug use across all age groups.
- Programs that utilize *Risk and Protective Factors* strategies across all age groups.

Priorities for Treatment and Intervention Programs include:

- Programs that provide effective treatment strategies for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.
- Programs that serve targeted populations and introduce early intervention strategies.
- Programs that incorporate Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) which sustain and support recovery. These include providing peer support, housing, case management, and/or to linkages to recovery communities and activities.

Additional Considerations:

There are additional areas that the DAC will remain cognizant of over the next five years, including:

- Increased tolerance of marijuana due to legalization of medical and recreational use in the United States.
- The connection between substance use and, suicide overdoses within the general population and for youth.
- The impact of the pandemic on substance use, including: effects for those with co-occurring disorders, as well as social isolation and reported increased anxiety and depression. Populations to watch include school-aged youth for whom education, prevention, and early intervention were limited in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, as well as adults, as data indicates adult alcohol use increased during the pandemic.
- The impact of vaping as a gateway to nicotine and drug addiction, including marijuana use.
- Indicators of opioid addiction in Johnson County, including seniors prescribed opioids during recovery from surgeries.
- The impact of increased indicators of methamphetamine and fentanyl abuse in Johnson County, and
- The habitual use of electronics as a form of addiction and its potential connection to alcohol and drug addiction.

2023-2028 ATF Funding Priorities approved by the DAC on November 18, 2021.