Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports
45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401

Wes Moore, Governor; Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
David D. Rudolph, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director, CHRC

October 5, 2026

Addressing Youth Substance Use through the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports

According to the most recent Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 15% of Maryland high school students reported consuming alcohol, 13% reported vaping, and 12% reported using marijuana in the past 30 days. LGBTQ+ students reported higher rates of substance use. Substance use among younger Marylanders is also a concern. Nine percent of students reported first consuming alcohol before age 11, and 9.5% of middle school students reported misusing prescription drugs.

The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports as part of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Consortium is responsible for expanding access to comprehensive behavioral health services for Maryland students, pre-K through grade 12, across the state. Consortium-funded programs are holistic and address a wide range of mental and behavioral health challenges, including substance use. A complete list of Consortium grantees currently providing substance use services is attached.

Consortium grantees utilize several evidence-based programs (EBPs) to prevent and address substance use. Among the Consortium's 15 Priority EBPs, three are focused on substance use:

- **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)** is an early intervention approach designed to identify adolescents at risk for substance-use related problems and connect them with appropriate supports. Based on screening results, providers deliver brief counseling interventions to increase adolescents' awareness of substance use risks and motivation for behavior change or facilitate referrals to specialized treatment when indicated.
- **Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA)** is a cognitive-behavioral treatment designed to both reduce adolescents' substance use and increase engagement in healthy, prosocial activities. It involves the adolescent, their family, and their community to build a supportive environment that rewards recovery-oriented behaviors and improves overall problem-solving skills.
- **Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST)** is a school-based program designed to help students develop confidence and skills to effectively handle challenging situations. The curriculum emphasizes positive decision-making, general social skills, and strategies for resisting social influences associated with substance use and other risky behaviors.

Many Consortium grantees utilize one or more of these three EBPs, along with other approaches, to address youth substance use across a continuum of services and supports, including some or all of the following:

1. Prevention and education,
2. Screening and referral,
3. Early intervention,
4. Treatment, and
5. Recovery.

Prevention and education services are designed to reach students regardless of their substance use history, with the goal of preventing substance use initiation and promoting healthy behaviors. Similarly, screening and referral services help identify students who may be at risk for or experiencing substance use concerns and connect them with appropriate supports. Early intervention services target students demonstrating emerging substance use concerns or low-to-moderate levels of risk, with the goal of preventing escalation to more serious problems. For students with more significant substance use concerns, treatment services provide specialized clinical care, while recovery supports focus on maintaining progress and preventing relapse. Although many Consortium grantees focus on prevention, screening, and early intervention, some provide direct treatment and recovery services, while others connect students and families with specialized treatment providers when higher levels of care are needed.

The following section describes each category of substance use services and highlights examples of Consortium-funded programs across Maryland.

1. Prevention and Education. Universal and targeted prevention services are designed to prevent substance use initiation by strengthening students' knowledge, coping skills, and healthy decision-making. Common approaches include curriculum-based, evidence-based programs such as Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST), school health class presentations, school-wide awareness campaigns, and family education about warning signs and available resources. The Consortium's SUD prevention and education services are currently available in 22 jurisdictions.

- **Grantee Spotlight: Anne Arundel County Department of Health (Anne Arundel County).** The program builds education, resilience, coping strategies, and healthy decision-making for both students and families through health class presentations, small group sessions, and individualized support. Mini-grants support student peer-to-peer initiatives such as student-led prevention campaigns and outreach. To disrupt intergenerational cycles of substance use disorder, the grantee provides targeted outreach and support to students and families for navigating recovery. While focused on substance use prevention, this grant also funds screening, referral, and early intervention services.

2. Screening and referral. Many grantees use screening tools to identify students engaged in or at risk for substance use. Screenings may occur through routine behavioral health services or following referrals from school staff. Grantees use the screener developed by the SBIRT program or another screening tool. Based on screening results, providers connect students with appropriate school- or community-based services use a closed-loop referral process to track whether students successfully access those services. The Consortium's SUD screening and referral services are currently available in 15 jurisdictions.

- **Grantee Spotlight: Johns Hopkins University Rales Health Center (Baltimore City).** The Consortium grant supports an array of services to address both mental health and substance use, including screening and referral, prevention and education, and early intervention. Students are routinely screened for substance use, and referred to specialized agencies for treatment when needed. The Consortium grant funds a Community Health Worker who supports families through the mental and behavioral health treatment referral process and also helps navigate them to services to address social determinants of health (e.g., transportation, food insecurity).

3. Early intervention. Early intervention services target students demonstrating emerging substance use concerns or low-to-moderate levels of risk. These interventions focus on short-term motivational interviewing, skill-building, and psychoeducation designed to halt the progression of substance use before it becomes a severe disorder. Approaches include brief interventions delivered through priority EBPs such as SBIRT, as well as

other targeted supports, including small-group interventions and skill-building activities. The Consortium's SUD early intervention services are currently available in 17 jurisdictions.

- **Grantee Spotlight: Ashley Treatment Centers (Harford County).** This program offers early intervention for students with moderate substance use issues, as well as substance use prevention, education, screening, and referrals to treatment. Consortium funding supports the expansion of the Roots Program to provide peer support and the creation of a safe space in school for at-risk students and those experimenting with substances through to express concerns and learn about the impact of SUD. Students requiring higher levels of care are referred to substance use treatment providers.

4. Treatment. Consortium grants expand access to comprehensive, evidence-based clinical treatment for students diagnosed with substance use disorders. Grant funds support school- and community-based outpatient treatment, individual and group psychotherapy, evidence-based models like Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA), and medication assisted treatment (MAT). The Consortium's SUD treatment services are currently available in 5 jurisdictions.

- **Grantee Spotlight: Caroline County Health Department (Caroline County).** This grantee offers comprehensive substance use support, providing services along all aspects of the continuum. To support treatment, the grantee has developed a youth substance use mobile unit to provide mobile treatment services utilizing telehealth and staffed by a child psychologist. The grant also utilizes Peer Recovery Specialists to provide prevention and other programming.

5. Recovery. Recovery services support youth in maintaining progress toward their recovery goals and reducing the risk of relapse. Services include continuing care planning, recovery coaching, school-based support groups, prosocial peer activities, and coordination with social supports—such as transportation, housing stability, and family services—to address non-clinical determinants of health and foster a supportive environment for ongoing recovery. Peer-led supports are frequently used to support recovery. The Consortium's SUD recovery services are currently available in 7 jurisdictions.

- **Grantee Spotlight: Higher Heightz (Prince George's and Charles Counties).** This grantee offers comprehensive substance use support, providing services along all aspects of the continuum. To support recovery, the grantee facilitates peer-led small groups designed to help middle and high school students maintain their recovery goals. The Consortium grant also supports case management and counseling utilizing the A-CRA model, support for parents and families, therapeutic art activities, and appropriate referrals to higher levels of care.

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Consortium grantees supporting Substance Use services 2026-2027 school year

Allegany County
- Allegany County Health Department: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention, Treatment
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education

Anne Arundel County
- Anne Arundel County Department of Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Arundel Lodge: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Treatment
- The Children's Guild: Screening and Referral
- EveryMind: Prevention and Education
- Innovative Therapeutic Services: Screening and Referral
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education
- Restoration Community Development Corporation: Prevention, Screening and Referral
- Thrive Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Villa Maria Behavioral Health / Associated Catholic Charities: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Baltimore City
- Johns Hopkins University Rales Health Center: Prevention, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Baltimore County
- Backpack Healthcare: Prevention and Education, Early Intervention, Recovery
- Hope Health Systems: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Jewish Community Services: Prevention and Education
- Tidemark: Prevention and Education, Early Intervention
- Thrive Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Villa Maria Behavioral Health / Associated Catholic Charities: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Calvert County
- Barstow Acres: Prevention and Education
- Calvert County Health Department: Prevention and Education
- Pathways: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Uneo Health: Prevention and Education

Caroline County
- Choptank Community Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral
- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education
- Caroline County Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention, Treatment, Recovery

Cecil County
- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education
- Thrive Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Youth Empowerment Source: Prevention and Education

Charles County
- Center for Children: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Dorchester County
- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education
- Dorchester County Health Department: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Frederick County
- Villa Maria Behavioral Health / Associated Catholic Charities: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Centro Hispano: Prevention and Education

Garrett County
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education

Harford County
- Ashley Treatment Center: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Care Solace: Screening and Referral
- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education

Howard County
- Congruent Counseling Services: Early Intervention
- Backpack Healthcare: Prevention, Early Intervention, Recovery
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education
- Thrive Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention

Kent County
- Choptank Community Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral
- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education

Montgomery County
- Bowie State, University Foundation: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- EveryMind: Prevention and Education
- Identity: Prevention and Education
- Thrive Behavioral Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Tree of Hope: Recovery

Prince George's County

- Community Advocates for Family & Youth: Prevention and Education
- EveryMind: Prevention and Education
- Healthlincs: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Higher Heightz: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention, Treatment, Recovery
- iMind Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention, Treatment, Recovery
- La Clinica del Pueblo: Prevention and Education
- Uneo Health: Prevention and Education
- Vinecorps: Prevention and Education, Early Intervention

Queen Anne's County

- Choptank Community Health: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral

Somerset County

- Life Management of Maryland: Prevention and Education, Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education

Talbot County

- Cook Center for Human Connection: Prevention and Education

Washington County

- Potomac Community Services: Screening and Referral, Early Intervention
- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education

Wicomico County

- Uneo Health: Prevention and Education

Worcester County

- Maryland Coalition of Families: Prevention and Education