

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**West Virginia
First Foundation**

Transforming Lives, Inspiring Hope

wvfirst.org

Letter from the *Executive Director*



As we look back on the previous year or so, and on all that has led us here, I am reminded of the extraordinary trust West Virginians have placed in the West Virginia First Foundation to steward this once in a generation opportunity. Together, we have built something entirely new: a foundation dedicated to preventing substance use disorder, supporting recovery, and saving lives.

In a short time, WVFF launched the fastest grant program of its kind in the nation, moving funds into communities at a pace more than four times the national average, while also leading the nation in opioid settlement reporting transparency with 94 percent compliance among participating jurisdictions. We have also introduced new funding approaches, becoming the first and only opioid foundation to create Gap Funding and Direct Funding models that come alongside providers regardless of geographic or budgetary disposition.

From the earliest stages of formation to statewide grantmaking, expert panels, and community partnerships, each milestone reflects a shared commitment to lasting change. Thank you for embarking on this journey with us. The path ahead will continue to demand courage, collaboration, and care, but with every project funded and every partnership strengthened, we move closer to a healthier, more hopeful future for all West Virginians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Board".

Jonathan Board
Executive Director
West Virginia First Foundation

WVFF *Impact*

171 PROJECTS &
NEARLY \$40 MILLION

May 2023
WVFF is Founded



May 2024
Executive Director Hired

September 2024
Staff Hired



December 2024

\$20 Million

Committed to ACCORN Project



December 2024

94 Projects

Nearly \$17 Million

Awarded in IOG



November 2025

\$1 Million

Awarded in DFM to
Jacob's Ladder



December 2025

76 Projects

Nearly \$18 Million

Awarded in MIG



TABLE OF

Contents

Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles **04-05**

Foundation of the Foundation **06-09**

Leadership and Guidance **09-13**

Grantmaking Approach **14-23**

Events & Outreach **24-30**

Financial Overview **31-38**

Restorative Philanthropy **39**

Strategic Partnerships **40-42**

MISSION & VISION



Mission Statement

Empowering West Virginians to prevent substance use disorder, support recovery, and *save lives*.

Vision

- We envision a West Virginia where hope and opportunity rise above addiction. A future where communities, families, and youth thrive.
- We envision a West Virginia where education equips our people to make informed choices and where strong social support lifts up those at risk.
- We envision a West Virginia where support and services are available to all, treatment is delivered with compassion, and recovery is celebrated with unwavering support.
- We envision a West Virginia where stigma and isolation is replaced by non-judgmental access to compassionate care and resources.
- We envision a West Virginia that is focused on sustainable, outcome-driven solutions that are tailored to address the unique challenges facing our people.
- This is the West Virginia we fight for: a future free from the grip of addiction, where every individual has the chance to heal, contribute, and thrive.

Guiding Principles

Investing to save lives.

We will focus on projects and priorities that supplement or make initial investments and not supplant existing funding. Our efforts will be focused on adding to—rather than replacing—existing spending.

Invest in areas of need with the greatest potential for positive impact.

We will invest funds in communities that have lacked sufficient resources to address substance use issues and who have and are now experiencing substantial increases in overdoses.

Invest in youth substance use prevention.

We will invest in programs to support our children, youth, and families with long-term investments in effective programs and strategies for community change.

Develop a fair, transparent process on where to spend funding.

We will develop a fair, transparent process, with engagement with public health leaders and active engagement of people and families with drug-overdose experiences, clinicians, as well as other key groups.

Be uninhibited by prior practices.

Too many times, West Virginians have done the same things over and over yet expected different results. We will not limit our minds, our hearts, or our wisdom by previous practices but instead strive to undertake new and innovative efforts to change the trajectory of West Virginia.

Focus on outcomes.

We will set tangible, measurable goals and focus on outcomes in order to maximize effectiveness. We will define and pursue specific outcomes for the problems we identify and choose to tackle. If it works, we continue. If it is not as effective as planned, we learn and pivot.

Use evidence to guide spending.

We will ground our work in the substantial body of evidence developed by researchers, clinicians, and our communities relating to what works and what does not.

Serving others by listening and leading.

We will lead by listening deeply to the needs of frontline entities and seeking insights from many perspectives. Keeping our hearts and minds open is vital to being bold and nimble advocates for entities and the people they serve.

Innovation and speed.

We will move quickly and continuously to innovate our approach in response to the needs of the people we work with and the communities we are part of.

Implement the West Virginia First Foundation sandbox.

We will be thought leaders and invest in promising new ideas and programs, with support to grow and nurture innovation, creative thinking, and outside-the-box solutions.

Leverage other resources.

We will seek to leverage other sources of funding to increase the reach and impact of the Foundation.

FOUNDATION OF THE

Foundation



In May 2023, the **West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF)**

was formally established to manage the majority share of opioid settlement funds outlined in the **Memorandum of Understanding**.

As a private nonprofit, WVFF oversees the long-term, evidence-based distribution of these funds across **six regions** to support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts statewide.

All funds must be used for Approved Purposes and Core Strategies as defined in the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- Leadership, Planning and Coordination
- Training
- Research
- Law Enforcement

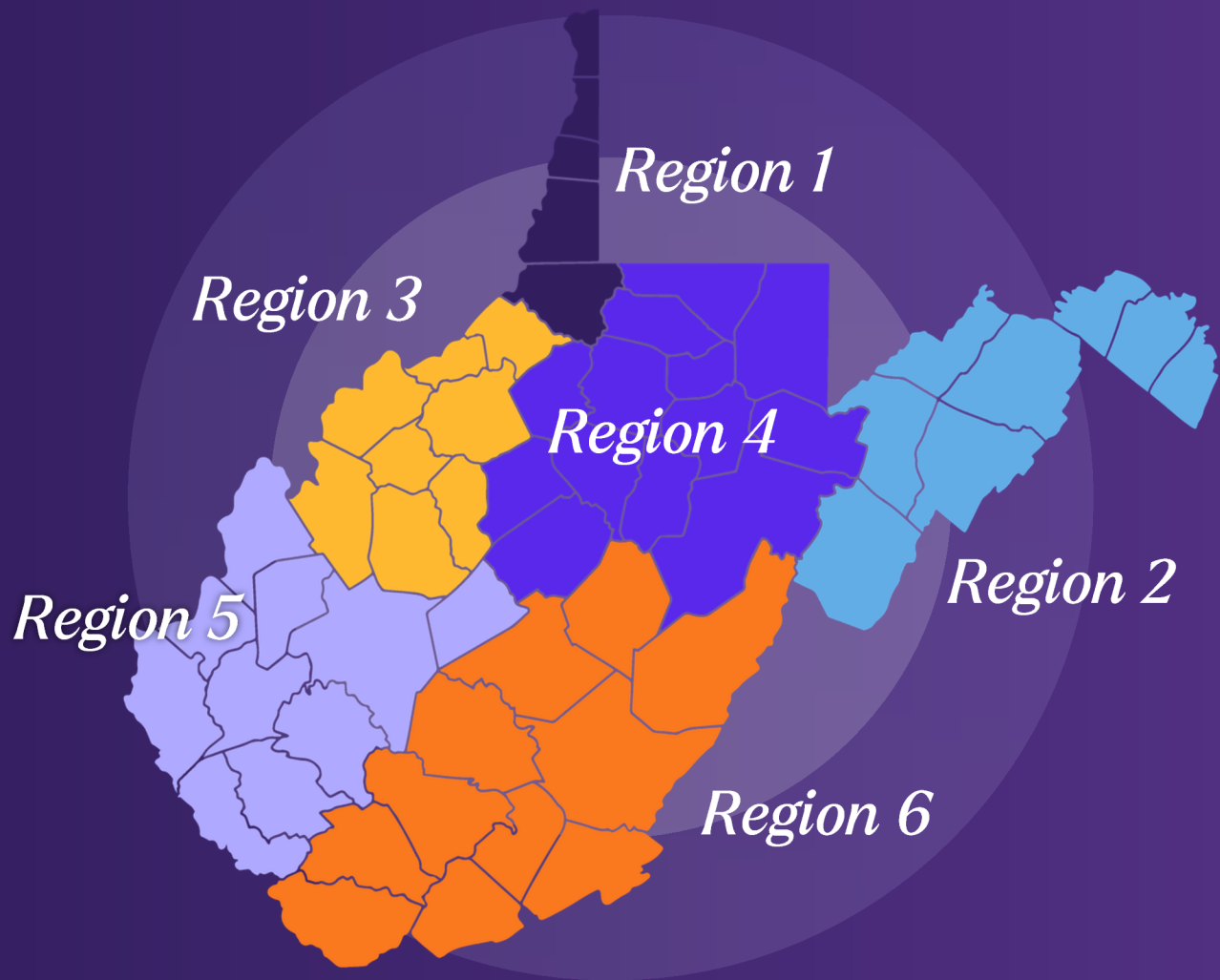
Approved *Purposes*

- Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Support People in Treatment and Recovery
- Connect People Who Need Help to the Help They Need (Connections to Care)
- Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons
- Address the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Prevent Over-Prescribing and Ensure Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing of Opioids
- Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Opioid-Related Injuries
- First Responders



Core *Strategies*

- Naloxone or other FDA-Approved Drug to Reverse Opioid Overdoses
- MAT Distribution and other Opioid Related Treatment
- Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- Expanding Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Expansion of Warm Hand-Off Programs and Recovery Services
- Treatment for Incarcerated Population
- Prevention Programs
- Evidence-Based Data Collection and Research Analyzing the Effectiveness of the Abatement Strategies within the State
- Law Enforcement
- Research



1	Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties
2	Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Berkeley, Jefferson, Pendleton and Morgan Counties
3	Wood, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Calhoun, Roane and Jackson Counties
4	Monongalia, Braxton, Lewis, Harrison, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, Barbour, Randolph, Gilmer, Doddridge and Upshur Counties
5	Cabell, Clay, Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, Mason, Mingo and Wayne Counties
6	Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Mercer, Wyoming and McDowell Counties

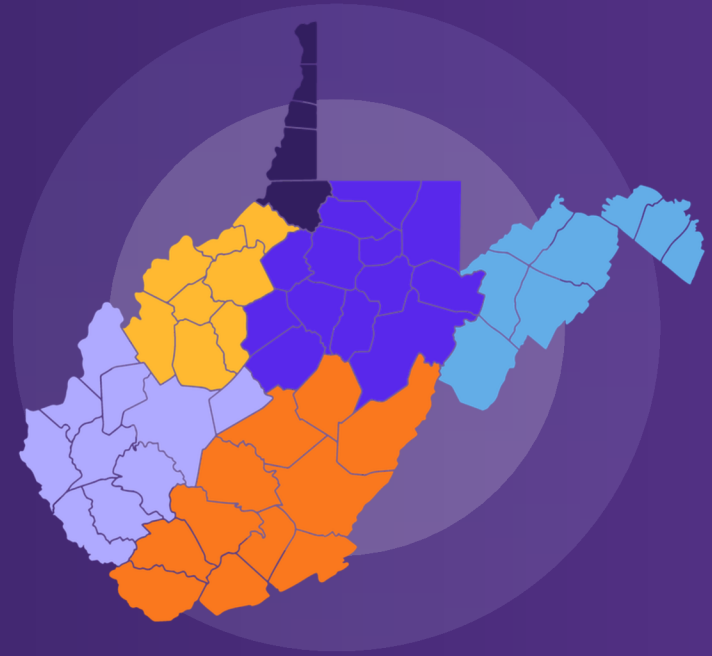
Leadership & Guidance

*All Board
Members and
Expert Panelists
are volunteers.*

The West Virginia First Foundation is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors who generously volunteer their time and expertise. As community leaders, they bring diverse perspectives and a shared commitment to ensuring opioid settlement funds are used transparently and effectively to build a healthier future for West Virginians.

In 2025, there were 11 Board Members: 6 elected and 5 appointed.

In September 2025, Chairman **Matthew Harvey** stepped down following his confirmation by the President of the United States to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia. The Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude for his leadership and service during its formative years. Following Chairman Harvey's departure, Region 6 Board Member **Greg Duckworth** was voted to serve as Interim Chair. At the Foundation's Annual Meeting in December 2025, he was formally elected to serve as Chair, ensuring continuity, stability, and forward momentum in the Foundation's governance.




Matthew Harvey



Greg Duckworth

Board of Directors

REGION	COUNTIES	BOARD MEMBERS
1	Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties	Elected: Dr. Steven Corder Appointed: N/A
2	Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Berkeley, Jefferson, Pendleton, and Morgan Counties	Elected: Tim Czaja Appointed: Matthew Harvey*
3	Wood, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Calhoun, Roane, and Jackson Counties	Elected: Tom Joyce Appointed: Jeff Sandy*
4	Monongalia, Braxton, Lewis, Harrison, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, Barbour, Randolph, Gilmer, Doddridge, and Upshur Counties	Elected: Jon Dower Appointed: Dora Stutler*
5	Cabell, Clay, Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, Mason, Mingo, and Wayne Counties	Elected: Dr. Matthew Christiansen* Appointed: Alys Smith*
6	Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Mercer, Wyoming, and McDowell Counties	Elected: Dr. Tony Kelly Appointed: Greg Duckworth

 **Matthew Harvey** (Chair) – **Greg Duckworth** (Sept. 2025)

 **Dr. Matthew Christiansen** (Vice-Chair)

 **Jeff Sandy** (Treasurer)

 **Dora Stutler** (Secretary)

 **Alys Smith** (Executive Member)

As outlined in the Foundation's founding documents, the Board of Directors is intended to consist of 11 members, including 6 regionally elected representatives and 5 governor-appointed members.

Expert Panels

In 2025, the West Virginia First Foundation formally established its Regional and Statewide Expert Panels, an essential milestone in ensuring that opioid settlement funds are guided by expertise, transparency, and community perspective.

One of the first tasks of the Regional Expert Panels was to nominate subject-matter experts to serve on the Statewide Expert Panel. The Statewide Panel reviews regional findings, ensures alignment with the Foundation’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and provides strategic recommendations to the Board regarding statewide funding priorities. The Statewide Expert Panel was confirmed following review and approval by the full Board of Directors.

Regional Expert Panels were nominated by the Board Members representing each region and approved by the full Board of Directors. These panels serve as vital local advisors, coordinating data collection, reviewing grant proposals, and offering region-specific recommendations to ensure community voices shape funding decisions.

All Board Members and Expert Panelists are volunteers.

Together, the Regional and Statewide Panels form a unified advisory structure, connecting local insight with statewide strategy to ensure that every funding decision is informed, equitable, and impactful.

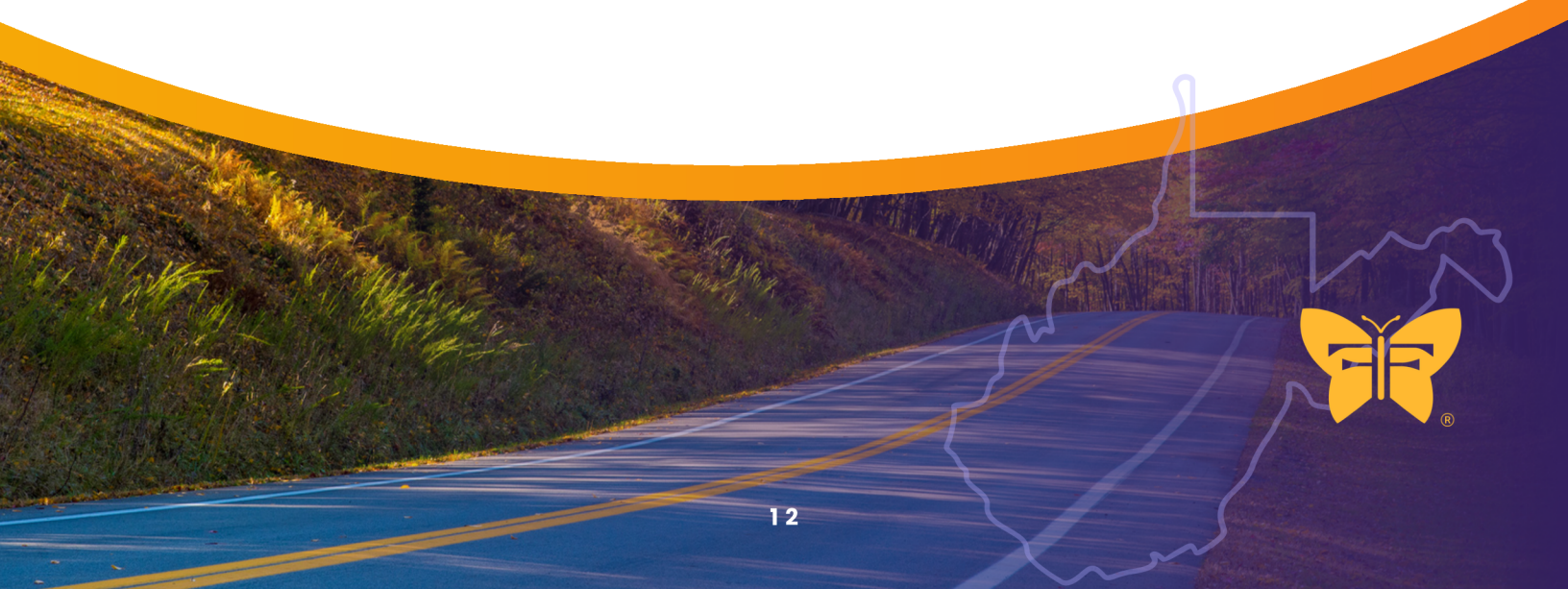
WVFF REGIONAL EXPERT PANELS

Area of Expertise	REGION 1	REGION 2	REGION 3	REGION 4	REGION 5	REGION 6
PREVENTION	Susan Harrison	Melody Stotler	Mike Pifer	Stephen Davis	Tammy Collins	Angela Barker
TREATMENT	Jeremy Sagun	Joann Christian	Jolie Kerenick	Dr. Lola Burke	Durand Warren	Elizabeth McCord
RECOVERY & LIVED EXPERIENCE	Mary Hess	Stephanie Stout	Allison Browning	Louis Ortenzio	Dick Daugherty	Tyson Kincaid
SYSTEMS OF CARE	Mark Philips	Toni Young	Amy Yokum	Gerry Schmidt	Jodi Biller	Dr. Kyle Muscari
LAW ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIAL SYSTEMS	Shawn Shwertfeger	Cindy Largent-Hill	Rick Woodyard	Travis Bennett	Michelle Akers	Brittany Puckett
FIRST RESPONDERS	Louis Vargo	Dean Olack	Joe Martin	John Hitchens	Evan Gibson	Paul Seamann
CORRECTIONS & REENTRY	Claudia Raymer	Eric Vacovsky	Aaron Simonton	Andrew Pinkney	John Smith	Jimmy Miller

WVFF STATEWIDE EXPERT PANEL	
PREVENTION	Alfgeir Kristjansson, PhD, MSc Professor, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences PI and Co-Director, WV Prevention Research Center School of Public Health, West Virginia University
TREATMENT	Madison Humerick, MD Assistant Professor, West Virginia University Department of Family Medicine - Eastern Division
RECOVERY & LIVED EXPERIENCE	Emily Birkhead, MSW Executive Director of West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences
SYSTEMS OF CARE	Angela Gray, BSN, RN SUD Case Manager, WVU Medicine - East
LAW ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIAL SYSTEMS	Judge Michael John Aloï United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia
FIRST RESPONDERS	Micheal D. Thomas, DrPH, FACPE Chief Government Affairs Officer, Director of Safety, Deputy Director of Human Resources Jan-Care Ambulance, Inc./GEMS
CORRECTIONS & REENTRY	Darren E. Taylor, M.C.J. Executive Director, South Branch Day Report Center

While these are the first Regional Expert Panels for the Foundation, this is the second Statewide Expert Panel established since the Foundation’s inception.

The inaugural Statewide Expert Panel (2024) assisted in reviewing the Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG) and was comprised of the following individuals: **Laura Lander** (Treatment), **Greg Puckett**, (Prevention), **Emily Birkhead** (Recovery/Lived Experience), **William Marshall** (Corrections/Reentry), **Christina Mullins** (Systems of Care), **Jess Gundy** (Law Enforcement/Judicial Systems), and **Adam Crawford** (First Responders).



Thank you

BOARD MEMBERS
& EXPERT PANELISTS

20
25



Grantmaking *Approach*

Since its inception in 2023, WVFF has stewarded opioid settlement funds through a transparent, disciplined grantmaking framework designed to balance urgency with accountability and create lasting impact for West Virginians.

WVFF has deployed funding through major grant cycles as well as its Direct Funding Model, each serving a distinct purpose within our overall approach.

Grant Cycles

- **Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG):** Launched as WVFF's first grant cycle, IOG focused on jumpstarting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts statewide while establishing foundational grantmaking infrastructure.
- **Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG):** Building on lessons learned through IOG, MIG represented a more refined funding approach, emphasizing clearer priorities, strengthened evaluation criteria, and long-term sustainability.

Direct Funding Model (DFM)

WVFF also considers funding requests outside of traditional grant cycles through its Direct Funding Model, which supports multi-regional initiatives that leverage additional external funding and meet rigorous due diligence requirements.

To be eligible, projects must:

- Demonstrate impact in at least four WVFF regions
- Show evidence of additional revenue sources, such as Qualified Settlement Funds (QSF), philanthropy, federal/state awards, or other external investments
- Comply with WVFF's due diligence and documentation requirements to ensure performance, accountability, and responsible stewardship

2024 Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG)

The Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG) was designed to rapidly deploy opioid settlement funds to communities across West Virginia in support of prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

Launched less than one year after WVFF's formation, the IOG became the fastest grant program of its kind in the nation—distributing funds into communities at a pace more than four times the national average.

Through the IOG, nearly \$17 million was awarded to 94 projects across all six regions of West Virginia.

Nearly
\$17 Million

94
Projects

4
Target Areas

6
Regions

1
State

Scoring Rubric *A Roadmap to Success*

-  Evidence-Based Strategies
-  Implementation and Sustainability
-  Transparency and Fairness
-  Impact and Measurability
-  Relationship to Foundation's Strategic Vision

Four Key Target Areas

Percentage Awarded by Target Area



Diversion Programs and Interdiction Programs



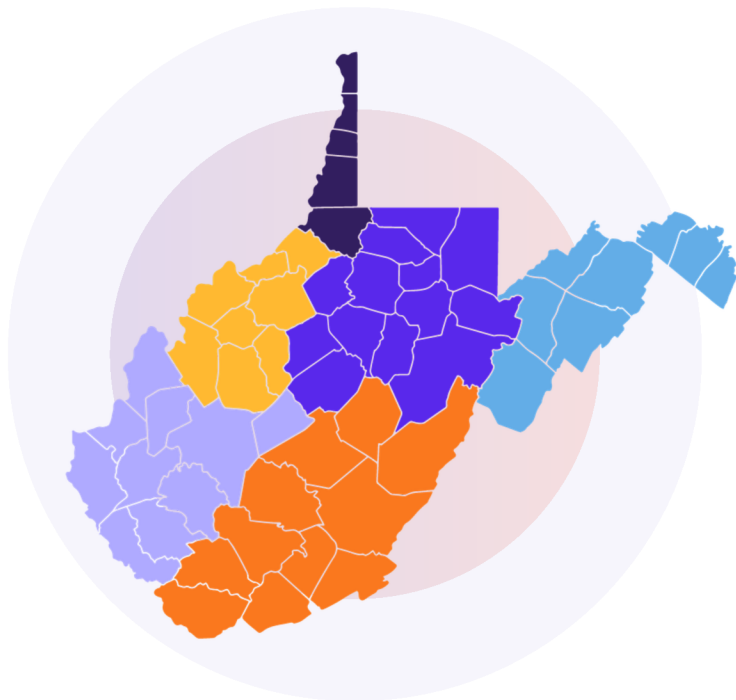
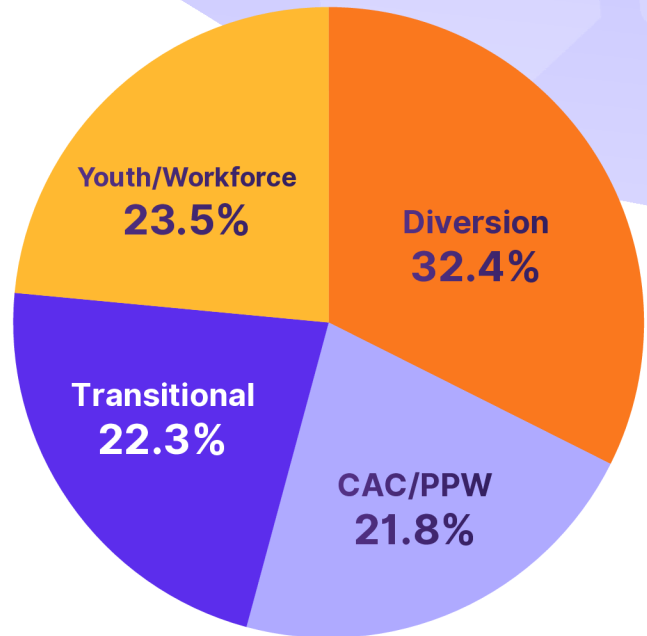
Youth Prevention and Workforce Development



Child Advocacy Centers / PPW Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Programs



Transitional / Recovery Housing Expansion



- 1** Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties
- 2** Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Berkeley, Jefferson, Pendleton and Morgan Counties
- 3** Wood, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Calhoun, Roane and Jackson Counties
- 4** Monongalia, Braxton, Lewis, Harrison, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, Barbour, Randolph, Gilmer, Doddridge and Upshur Counties
- 5** Cabell, Clay, Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, Mason, Mingo and Wayne Counties
- 6** Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Mercer, Wyoming and McDowell Counties



2025 Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG)

The Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG) was designed to support projects and organizations that strengthen systems of care and drive long-term impact across West Virginia's prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce continuum.

Building on the lessons learned from the Initial Opportunity Grant, MIG reflects a more deliberate and disciplined approach, balancing urgency with accountability, evidence, and sustainability.

Through MIG, the West Virginia First Foundation advanced nearly **\$18 million** in funding to support initiatives designed to create lasting change across all regions of the state, representing a significant step forward in the scale and structure of opioid settlement investment in West Virginia.

Nearly
\$18 Million

76
Projects

5
Target Areas

6
Regions

1
State

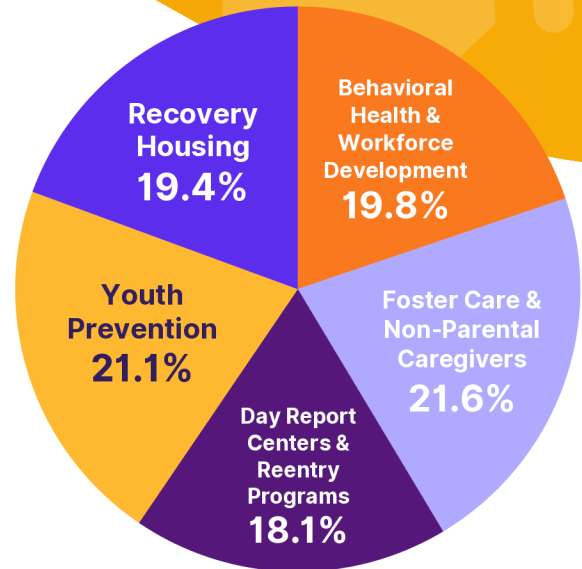
Scoring Rubric *The Path to Impact*

-  Relationship to Foundation's Strategic Vision
-  Transparency, Fairness, and Sustainability
-  Innovative and Evidence-Based Strategies
-  Implementation, Impact, and Measurability

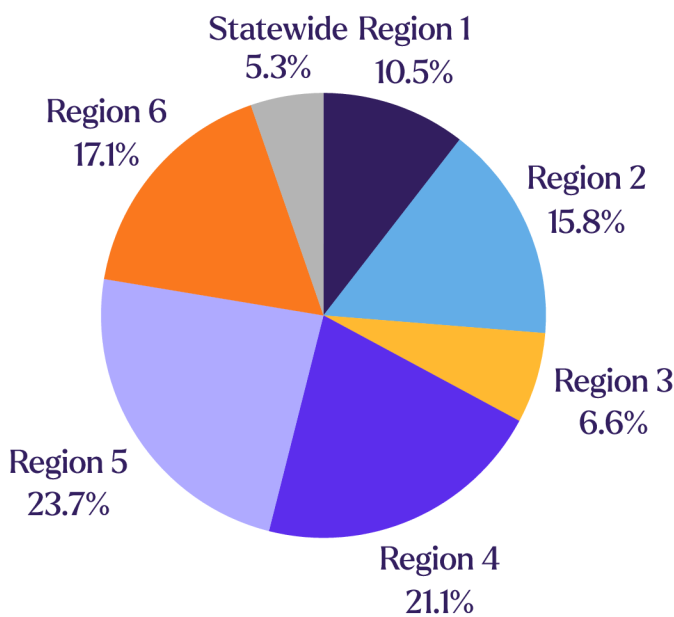
Five Key Target Areas



Funding Awards by Target Area



Percentage Awarded by Region



- 1** Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties
- 2** Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Berkeley, Jefferson, Pendleton and Morgan Counties
- 3** Wood, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Calhoun, Roane and Jackson Counties
- 4** Monongalia, Braxton, Lewis, Harrison, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, Barbour, Randolph, Gilmer, Doddridge and Upshur Counties
- 5** Cabell, Clay, Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, Mason, Mingo and Wayne Counties
- 6** Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Mercer, Wyoming and McDowell Counties

Direct Funding

Jacob's Ladder

At the conclusion of 2025, WVFF approved **\$1 Million in Direct Funding** support for Jacob's Ladder, a nationally recognized residential recovery program located in Aurora, West Virginia, known for its long-term, outcomes-based therapeutic model.

Jacob's Ladder operates a residential program rooted in therapy, farming, the arts, outdoor engagement, and Twelve Step programming, and has achieved two-year recovery success rates significantly above national averages. The organization has expanded its services to include outpatient programming and recovery residences, strengthening its continuum-of-care footprint across the state.

WVFF's investment was tied to clear performance and operational requirements, reflecting our commitment to accountability and measurable impact, including:

- **WVARR certification for its recovery residence prior to fund release**
- **Benchmarks related to capacity expansion, infrastructure improvements and financial operations**



Following WVFF's push for improved statewide standards, **Jacob's Ladder successfully obtained WVARR certification**, meeting a key requirement and strengthening the quality and integrity of its recovery housing model.

Outcomes *Reporting*

WVFF's grantmaking framework is grounded in transparency, accountability, and data integrity. Each funded project is subject to quarterly reporting requirements, including both financial and narrative components. Disbursements are contingent upon demonstrated progress toward measurable outcomes and compliance with reporting guidelines.

WVFF integrates independent, objective evaluation methods into its review and reporting processes. Each application is assessed using standardized criteria to ensure fairness and data integrity. Following this review, Regional and Statewide Expert Panelists provide qualitative insight from their respective areas of expertise, helping to contextualize the data and highlight community impact. Applications that advance through these stages are then reviewed and voted on by the full WVFF Board of Directors.

This multi-layered process ensures an evidence-based assessment of each project's performance and provides a comprehensive view of progress across all investments statewide. Through this structure, WVFF can identify emerging best practices, replicate effective models, and ensure funds are driving tangible improvements in health, recovery, and community resilience.



Scan the QR code to
view all awardees.



All awarded projects are featured on **WVFF's website**, highlighting the organizations and initiatives making measurable impact across West Virginia.

W V F F

Awardees

- Abundant Life Recovery Center (IOG)
- Active Southern West Virginia Inc. (MIG)
- Alliance for Hope Appalachia, Inc. (MIG)
- Berkeley County Commission (IOG & MIG)
- Bluefield West Virginia Economic Development Authority (IOG)
- Boone Memorial Health (MIG)
- Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg (IOG)
- Boys and Girls Club of Pleasants County, Inc. (IOG)
- Bream Neighborhood S.H.O.P., Inc. (IOG)
- Brian's Safehouse, Inc. (MIG)
- Burlington United Methodist Family Services (IOG & MIG)
- Cabell County Commission (IOG)
- Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation, Inc. (IOG)
- CASA of the Eastern Panhandle (IOG & MIG)
- Child and Youth Advocacy Center (IOG)
- Child Protect of Mercer County, Inc. (IOG)
- ChildLaw Services, Inc. (MIG)
- Children's Home Society of West Virginia (IOG)
- City of Clarksburg (IOG & MIG)
- Community Care of WV, Inc. (IOG)
- Community Connections, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Community Education Group, Inc. (MIG)
- Cornerstone Family Intervention, Inc. (IOG)
- Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Inc. (MIG)
- Fayette County Family Resource Network, Inc. (IOG)
- Festiv-ALL Charleston, WV (MIG)
- Forney Charities, Inc. dba House of Hope - Ohio Valley (IOG)
- Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council (IOG)
- God's Way Home (IOG)
- Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. (MIG)
- Hampshire County Commission dba South Branch Valley Day Report Center (IOG & MIG)
- Hampshire County Pathways, Inc. (IOG)
- Harrison County CASA Program, Inc. (MIG)
- Harrison County Child Abuse Task Force dba Hero's Haven Child Advocacy Center (IOG & MIG)
- HealthPath Outreach, Inc. (MIG)
- Hero House, Inc. (MIG)
- HoH-Share, Inc. (MIG)
- Hope House Ministries (IOG & MIG)
- Hope in the Hills, Inc. (MIG)
- Huntington City Mission (IOG)
- Jackson County Health Department (IOG)
- Jefferson County Community Ministries, Inc. (IOG)
- Jacob's Ladder at Brookside Farms (DFM)
- Jefferson County Schools (IOG)
- Just for Kids, Inc. (IOG)
- Kanawha Valley Fellowship Home, Inc. (IOG)
- Lauren's Wish Addiction Triage Center, Inc. (IOG)
- Lewis County Family Resource Network, Inc. (IOG)
- Libera, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Life or Drugs, Tri-State Support (IOG)
- Lily's Place, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Marion County Child Advocacy Center (IOG)
- Marshall University Research Corporation (MIG)
- McDowell County Commission on Aging, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Mercer County Sheriff's Department (IOG)
- Mid-Ohio Valley Board of Health (IOG)
- Mid-Ohio Valley Fellowship Home, Inc. (IOG)
- Mission West Virginia, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Monongalia County Board of Health (IOG)
- Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Monongalia County Commission (IOG)
- Morgan County Partnership, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Morgantown Sober Living, Inc. dba WVSL Solutions (IOG & MIG)
- Mountain CAP of WV, Inc. (IOG)
- Mountains of Hope Outreach (MIG)
- Mylan Park Foundation, Inc. (MIG)

W V F F

Awardees

- National Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- New River Health Association, Inc. (MIG)
- New Vision Renewable Energy, Inc. (IOG)
- Nicholas County Health Department (IOG)
- North Star Child Advocacy Center (IOG)
- Northwood Health Systems, Inc. (MIG)
- Ohio Valley Recovery Inc., The Unity Center (IOG)
- Pollen8, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Pressley Ridge (MIG)
- Pretera Center for Mental Health Services, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Preston County Board of Education (IOG & MIG)
- Preston County Health Department (MIG)
- Public Defender Corporation of the 30th and 7th Judicial Circuit and Christian Help, Inc. of Mingo County (IOG)
- Public Defender Corporation of the 5th Judicial Circuit (IOG)
- Raleigh County Day Report Center (IOG)
- Randolph County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. (IOG)
- Rea of Hope (IOG)
- Recovery Group of Southern West Virginia, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Recovery Point of Huntington, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Ritchie County Primary Care Association dba Integrated Health Centers of WV (IOG)
- Salvation Army of Huntington (IOG)
- Save the Children Federation, Inc. (IOG)
- Seed Sower, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Semper Liberi, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, Inc. (MIG)
- Southern WV Fellowship Home, Inc. (IOG)
- Step By Step, Inc. (MIG)
- Stop the Hurt, Inc. (IOG)
- TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc. (MIG)
- The Bomar Club, Inc. (MIG)
- The Change Initiative (MIG)
- The Church United in WV dba The SafeHaven Campaign (MIG)
- The Foundation for the Thomas Memorial & St. Francis Hospitals (IOG)
- The Martinsburg Initiative, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- The REACH Initiative, Inc. (MIG)
- The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Charleston (IOG)
- The Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network, Inc. (IOG)
- Town of Romney, WV (IOG)
- Tucker Day Report (MIG)
- United Summit Center, Inc. (IOG)
- United Way Alliance of the Mid Ohio Valley, Inc. (IOG)
- Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, Inc. (IOG)
- West Liberty University (MIG)
- West Virginia CASA Association, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (MIG)
- West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute (IOG & MIG)
- West Virginia Health Right, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- West Virginia Prevention Solutions, Inc. (IOG)
- West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition (MIG)
- West Virginia Wesleyan College (MIG)
- West Virginia Women Work, Inc. (MIG)
- Westbrook Health Services, Inc. (IOG & MIG)
- Wheeling Police Department (IOG)
- WomenCare, Inc. dba FamilyCare Health Centers (MIG)
- WV Perinatal Partnership, Inc. (IOG)
- WV School of Osteopathic Medicine (IOG)
- WVU Medical Corporation dba University Health Associates (MIG)
- WVU Parkersburg (IOG)
- Wyoming County Commission (IOG)
- Young Women's Christian Association of Wheeling, WV (MIG)
- Youth Services System, Inc. (IOG & MIG)

NEO

Grantmaking

THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR WEST VIRGINIA

The opioid crisis continues to evolve. If we want to change the long-term trajectory of substance use disorder in West Virginia, we cannot continue with business as usual. WVFF is transitioning from traditional grantmaking toward NEO Grantmaking: an approach rooted in **Need, Evidence, and Outcomes**. NEO represents a disciplined evolution aimed at delivering measurable, durable impact for West Virginians today and for generations to come.

NEED



Understanding what communities actually require in real time.

- Living, dynamic data
- Based Providership (regional realities)
- Promote Interoperability (systems that work together)

EVIDENCE



Applying research, scientific rigor, and shared definitions to decision-making.

- Rooted in our founding documents
- Recent experience shows evidence is interpreted differently across institutions
- Alignment and consistency are required for meaningful progress

OUTCOMES



Tracking meaningful results for families, communities, and the state as a whole.

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) and annual reporting
- Innovation requires experimentation
- Corpus stewardship ensures lasting value

2025 Events

BOARD MEETINGS, HOLD THE LINE TOUR & MORE

In 2025, the West Virginia First Foundation Board of Directors continued its commitment to transparency and community connection by holding quarterly meetings in regions across the state. Each meeting was paired with a 'Hold the Line' Tour Stop, offering Board Members and staff an opportunity to engage directly with WVFF-funded organizations and see the impact of their investments firsthand.

Quarter 2 – Region 6



Hosted at the Tamarack Conference Center in Raleigh County, this meeting included a Hold the Line visit to the Southern West Virginia Fellowship Home, highlighting recovery housing and peer-led support networks that help individuals rebuild their lives. The featured speaker was Jobs & Hope West Virginia, which shared insights on statewide workforce development and reentry initiatives that empower individuals in recovery to achieve long-term stability and success.

Quarter 1 – Region 3



The Board convened at the Wood County Resiliency Center, with a Hold the Line visit to the North Star Child Advocacy Center (the highest recipient for the Initial Opportunity Grant), where members learned how trauma-informed care and prevention programming are supporting children and families affected by substance use. The meeting featured remarks from West Virginia Attorney General J.B. McCuskey, who spoke about the importance of collaboration and accountability in sustaining the state's recovery efforts.

Quarter 3 – Region 2

Held at the Berkeley County Day Report Center, the meeting included a Hold the Line visit at Semper Liberi Recovery Village, where Board members observed innovative workforce development and recovery initiatives in practice. During the meeting, Chairman Matthew Harvey formally resigned as Chairman, and Commissioner Greg Duckworth was elected Interim Chairman.



Quarter 4 Annual Meeting – Region 1

At the Q4 and Annual Meeting, held at Oglebay Resort in Ohio County, Board officers were re-elected to their current positions. Following the meeting, members participated in a Hold the Line visit to the Wheeling Police Department, where they learned about the department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Collaborative and saw diversion focused crisis response, cross sector partnerships, and data driven approaches that strengthen public safety while connecting individuals to care.

Through this statewide approach, the Foundation's governance and field engagement worked hand in hand, ensuring that decisions made in the boardroom remain deeply connected to the communities they serve.

The 2025 meetings set the stage for continued regional collaboration and statewide alignment in 2026.



North Star Child Advocacy Center



Southern West Virginia Fellowship Home



Semper Liberi



Wheeling Police Department

HOLD THE LINE TOUR



On **May 20, 2025**, WVFF hosted the **Initial Opportunity Grant (IOG) Celebration**

in Sutton (the geographic center of West Virginia) marking both the Foundation's second anniversary and the awarding of its first major round of funding.

Initial Opportunity Grant *Celebration*



Initial Opportunity Grant *Celebration*

The event brought together IOG award recipients from across all **six regions**, creating the first statewide gathering of WVFF-funded organizations. **Nearly \$17 million** in grants were celebrated, supporting **94 projects** dedicated to prevention, treatment, and recovery. Beyond recognizing achievement, the celebration provided an invaluable opportunity for collaboration, allowing grantees, community partners, and state leaders to connect, share ideas, and strengthen a united approach to combating substance use disorder in West Virginia.

State and national leaders joined the event, including Dr. Karen Scott of the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE), West Virginia Attorney General J.B. McCuskey, and West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey, each reflecting on how these collective efforts signal West Virginia's growing leadership in addressing the opioid crisis. The day concluded with a networking reception, fostering peer-to-peer dialogue and reinforcing the spirit of partnership that drives WVFF's mission.



A Presence on the *National Stage*

In 2025, the West Virginia First Foundation shared its story of **leadership and innovation** with audiences across the state and nation. Executive Director Jonathan Board and members of the Foundation's Board of Directors were invited to speak at key gatherings, including:

US SENATE HEARING



SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST





Through these engagements, WVFF showcased West Virginia's model for **transparent, data-driven, and community-informed** use of opioid settlement funds, demonstrating how the state's collaborative approach is shaping national conversations on **prevention, treatment, and recovery**.

SAMHSA OVERDOSE SUMMIT



GRANTMAKERS IN HEALTH



ADDICTION SOLUTIONS SUMMIT



Financial Overview

Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) *Explained*

In May 2023, the **West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF)** was formally established to manage the majority share of opioid settlement funds outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding. As a private nonprofit, WVFF oversees the long-term, evidence-based distribution of these funds across six regions to support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts statewide.

72.5%

of the funds are managed by WVFF, a private nonprofit charged with overseeing the long-term, evidence-based distribution of opioid settlement dollars across six regions. The Foundation supports prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives through strategic grantmaking and statewide planning.

24.5%

of the funds are distributed directly to Local Governments, providing them with flexible resources to meet urgent community needs. These funds are separate from those administered by the Foundation, though WVFF is responsible for collecting and reporting on local expenditures annually.



3%

of the funds are allocated to the Office of the West Virginia Attorney General, supporting statewide enforcement, compliance, and coordination efforts. These funds are also separate from the Foundation's oversight.

Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) *Explained*

The funds allocated from the **Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF)** to the Local Governments and Attorney General do not pass through WVFF; they flow directly from the QSF to the Local Governments and Attorney General. WVFF does not oversee how Local Governments use their 24.5% share; however, WVFF is responsible for collecting data and reporting those expenditures in accordance with the MOU.

While WVFF does not oversee how local governments use their 24.5% share, it is responsible for collecting and reporting those expenditures in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

Scan the QR code to access the 2025 Annual QSF Expenditure Report for Local Governments



Local Governments = West Virginia counties and incorporated municipalities (cities, towns, or villages) that were allocated a direct percentage share of the opioid settlement funds.



WVFF Financial *Overview*

Stewardship of resources is a core responsibility of WVFF and an essential part of advancing its mission. Throughout the year, the organization remained focused on aligning financial practices with long-term priorities, ensuring that resources are managed thoughtfully, responsibly, and in support of the communities it serves. This approach reflects an ongoing commitment to integrity, accountability, and careful planning as WVFF continues its work.

As of December 31, 2025, WVFF maintained **\$368,841,525.00** in assets and distributed **\$11,690,510.00** in grants back to West Virginia communities.

When classifying expenditures, WVFF's four key functions are as follows:

Grant Programs and Direct Funding: Programs designed to provide funding assistance, whether directly or through competitive grant programs, to entities addressing and implementing one or multiple Approved Purposes and Core Strategies as defined in the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding.

Regional/Local Communications and Support: Programs designed to support regional areas and county and municipality governments by promoting communications, education, and interoperability, including the use of regional and local expert panels.

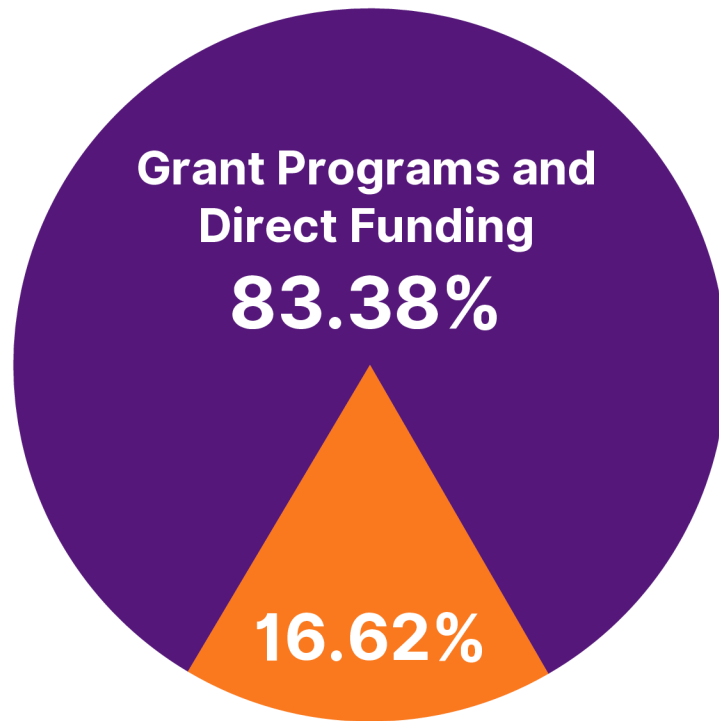
Research, Reporting, and Data Warehousing: Programs designed to support research and reporting throughout the State regarding opioid use disorder, including financial and qualitative/quantitative data. This includes warehousing data and providing mechanisms to share data between stakeholders in an interoperable manner.

Management and General: Involves the direction of the overall affairs of WVFF, which includes finance, legal, administration, and related areas.

WVFF Financial Overview

At June 30, 2025, spend in these categories was as follows:

CATEGORY	FY 2025 SPEND %
Grant Programs and Direct Funding	83.38%
Regional/Local Communications and Support Research, Reporting, and Data Warehousing Management and General	16.62%



Regional/Local Communications and Support
Research, Reporting, and Data Warehousing
Management and General

Investment *Management*

Investment Stewardship & Long-Term Sustainability

The West Virginia First Foundation works with professional investment management advisors under an investment management agreement that establishes sustainable, long-term investment policies to steward and protect the funds entrusted to us. These advisors help build and maintain an investment strategy that aligns with our mission, liquidity needs, and risk tolerance, while supporting sustainable growth and responsible preservation of principal. Their role helps ensure the Foundation remains a strong and stable funding partner for communities across West Virginia for many years to come.

Our two investment advisors, **United Bank** (Charleston, WV) and **WesBanco** (Wheeling, WV), provide ongoing guidance on portfolio construction, diversification, and performance monitoring within these established policies. They report on results compared to relevant benchmarks and assist in managing market volatility, making disciplined adjustments as conditions evolve.

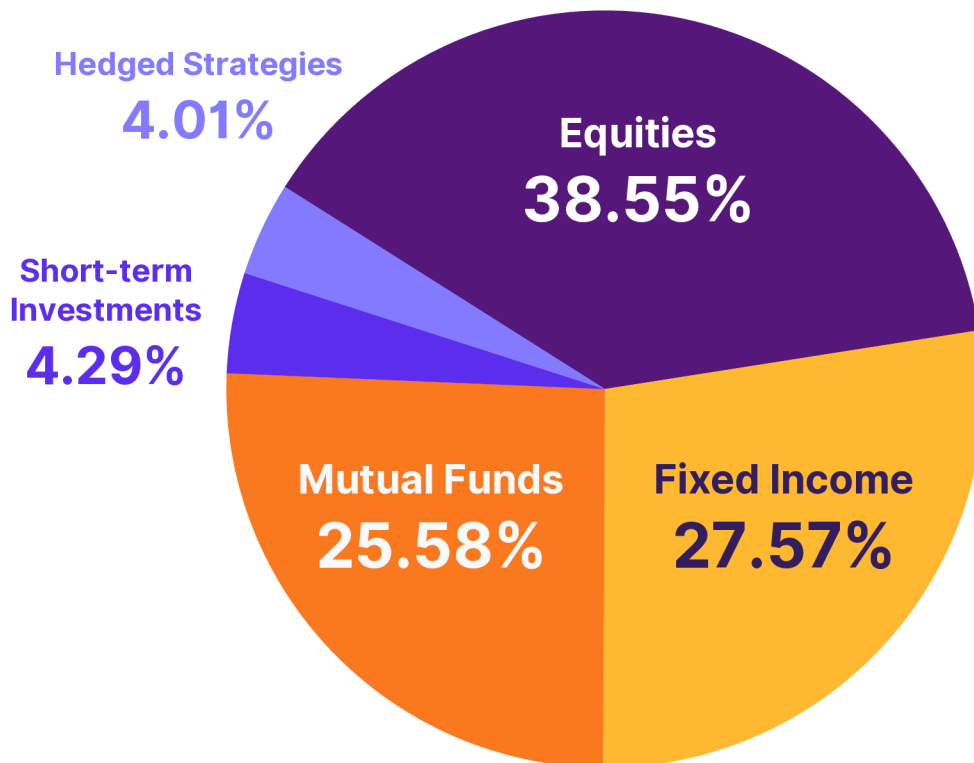
Engaging independent investment advisors through this policy-driven framework strengthens oversight, transparency, and long-term sustainability. This approach supports the Foundation's financial goals: maximizing impact while protecting the integrity and future capacity of the resources we manage.



Investment Management

The fair value of investments consisted of the following at June 30, 2025:

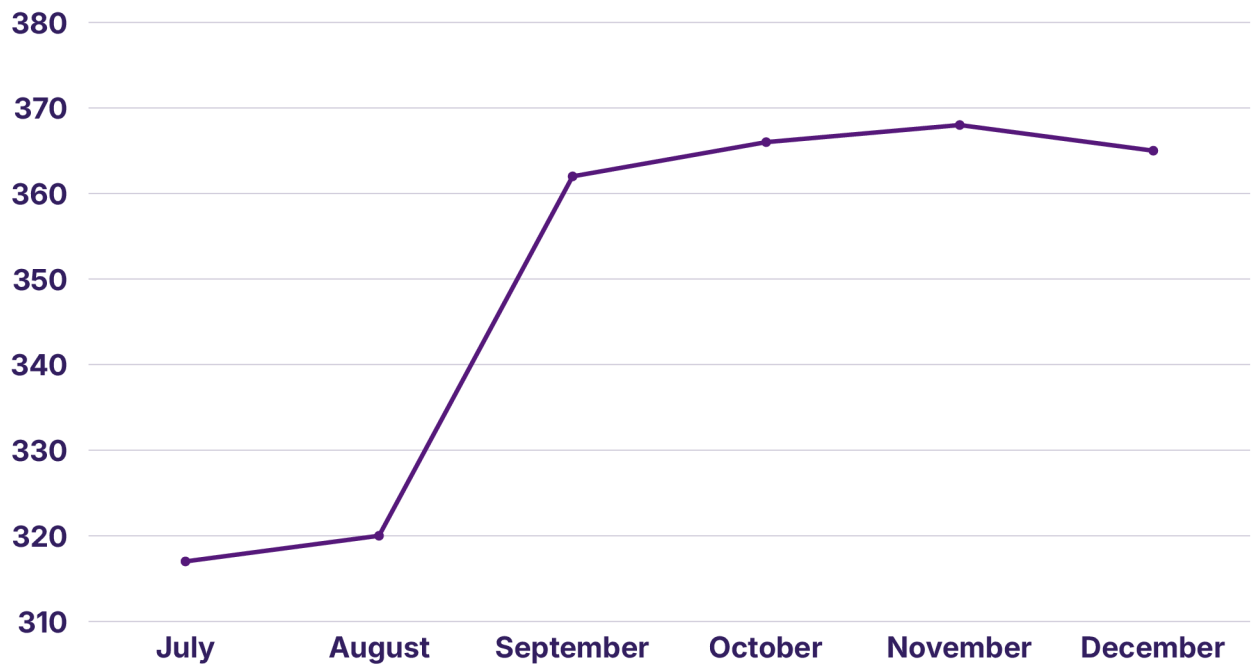
	AMOUNT	%
Equities	\$121,076,368	38.55%
Fixed Income	\$86,475,741	27.57%
Mutual Funds	\$80,329,985	25.58%
Short-term Investments	\$13,485,224	4.29%
Hedged Strategies	\$12,669,280	4.01%
TOTALS	\$314,036,599	100.00%



Investment Management

Fair value of investments at month-end FY 2026 to date is as follows:

MONTH	ENDING VALUE
July 2025	\$317,040,385
August 2025	\$320,573,623
September 2025	\$362,807,794
October 2025	\$366,613,111
November 2025	\$368,781,325
December 2025	\$365,201,201



Gap Funding Model

Coming Soon

Across West Virginia, partner organizations are advancing prevention, treatment, recovery, diversion, and youth-serving programs that require timely execution. Yet even strong organizations can encounter short-term cash flow gaps due to reimbursement timing, delayed revenue, or urgent community needs.

To support continuity and momentum, the Foundation is developing a **Gap Funding Model** that will provide temporary, accountable funding to State grantees awaiting disbursement of approved funds. These short-term loans help ensure programs stay on schedule, services remain uninterrupted, and outcomes are delivered, without forcing organizations to pause operations or take on costly debt.

Gap funding awards will be evaluated and monitored with the same rigor that defines the Foundation's grantmaking. Each award will include:

- **Documented repayment terms**
- **Clear public benefit**
- **Assessment of organizational capacity**
- **Defined repayment source and timeline**
- **Ongoing monitoring**

Gap funding is meant to strengthen execution, not create dependency or financial risk. The goal is to help grantees move faster while maintaining clear accountability, transparency, and repayment expectations.

Further details will be released in 2026.



Restorative *Philanthropy*

In 2026, WVFF will launch its first comprehensive development strategy. **Restorative Philanthropy** is an initiative designed to advance our mission through strategic fundraising to deepen donor engagement while building philanthropic partnerships.

Why Development?

While the Foundation manages significant resources, the need is generational. To ensure that settlement dollars outlast the crisis and remain a permanent force for prevention, treatment, recovery, and community healing, WVFF must grow and protect its corpus.

Restorative Philanthropy will help expand long-term funding capacity, diversify revenue, and strengthen sustainability, so the Foundation can serve West Virginians not just today, but for decades to come.

Further details will be released in 2026.



Strategic *Partnerships*



Marshall University

Marshall University serves as a core partner in the Appalachian Continuum of Care for Overdose Reduction Network (ACCORN). In December 2024, WVFF made its first major Direct Funding commitment, dedicating \$20 million in contingent support to ACCORN, an outcomes-based initiative aimed at reducing overdose deaths across West Virginia. This commitment strengthened ACCORN's application to the federal ARPA-H HEROES program, which challenges communities to pair federal investment with local capital to drive measurable health outcomes.



West Virginia University

WVFF has selected a West Virginia University team, led by the Health Affairs Institute in partnership with the Institute for Policy Research and Public Affairs, and Data Driven WV, to conduct a comprehensive, statewide Needs Assessment that will help guide the strategic and equitable allocation of opioid settlement funds across West Virginia. This \$1.5 million investment will support an 18-month initiative designed to provide a clearer understanding of needs, gaps, and opportunities across the state. During the initiative's first steering committee meeting, project partners selected the name *West Virginia Wayfinder*, reflecting a shared commitment to using data to help chart a clearer path forward for West Virginia.

Strategic *Partnerships*



Johns Hopkins University

WVFF has looked to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health as a trusted academic resource in shaping its work. The Foundation used Johns Hopkins' Guiding Principles to help inform and strengthen its own framework for responsible stewardship and has continued to build on that relationship through conversations around outcomes based tracking, grantmaking, and long term impact. This partnership was provided at no cost to the Foundation.



University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame, through its Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), provided data-driven evaluation for WVFF's Momentum Initiative Grant (MIG) cycle. LEO delivered objective scoring for submitted applications, ensuring consistent review, transparency, and measurable standards across statewide proposals. Through its broader Poverty Initiative, LEO focuses on identifying and expanding evidence-based strategies that uplift communities experiencing poverty and economic hardship. This partnership was provided at no cost to the Foundation.





West Virginia First Foundation

Through strategic partnerships, WVFF is aligning institutions and communities around shared responsibility and long-term impact. By investing alongside trusted partners, we aim to strengthen systems and steward settlement resources thoughtfully and transparently, with a focus on lasting outcomes, recognizing that the responsibility we carry is not just for today, but for generations to come.

This work exists because too many lives are no longer here. Thank you to all who carry that truth with us, and who let it guide every decision that follows.

Placed at each Board meeting, the Chair of Remembrance honors those no longer with us.



wvfirst.org



Transforming Lives, Inspiring Hope