



PIKES PEAK
REGION 16

2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

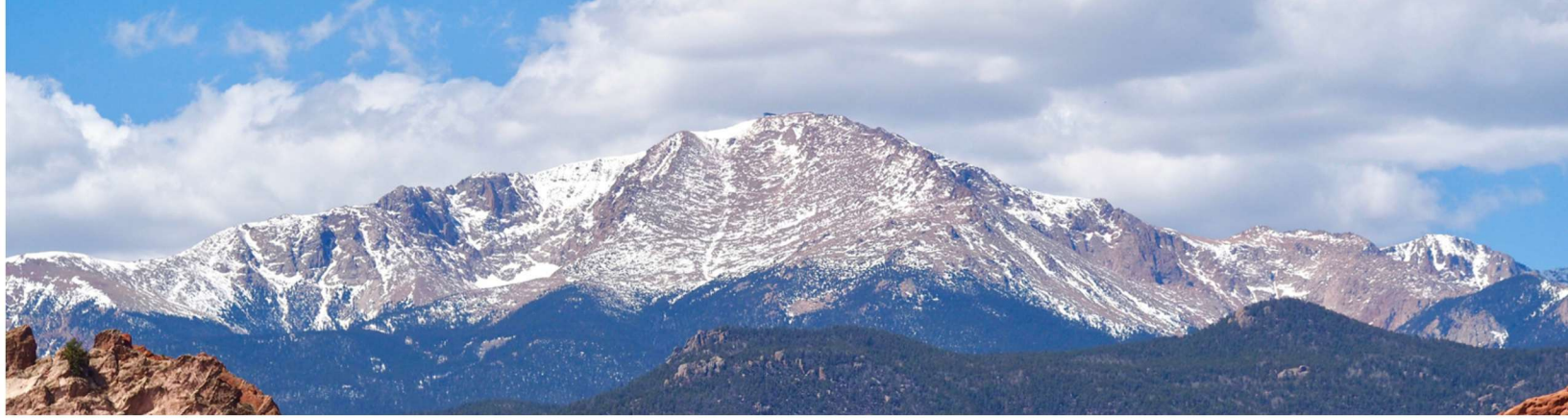
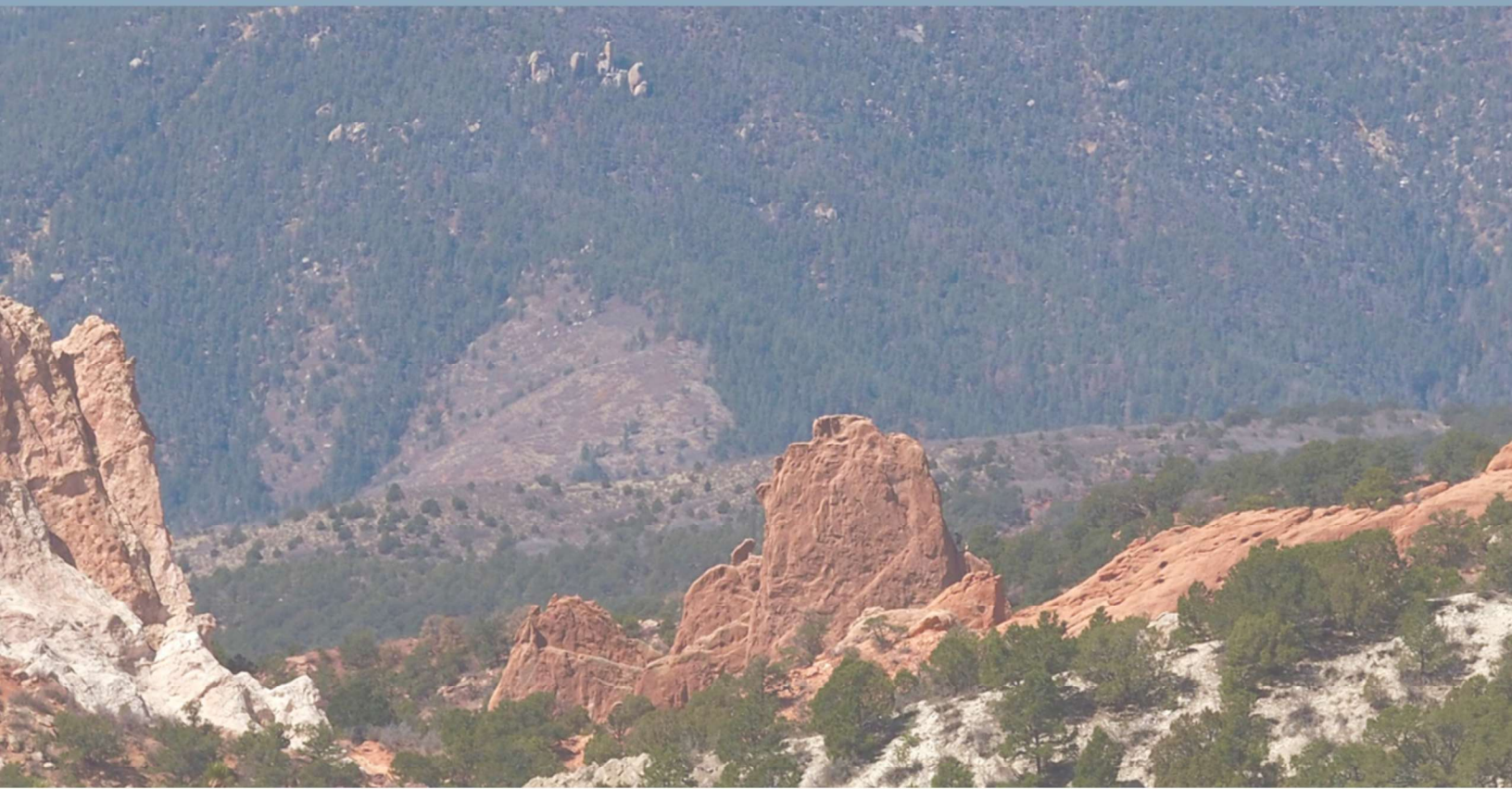


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Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles



MISSION & VISION



Our **Mission**

The Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council directs opioid settlement funds with a focus on accountability and responsible stewardship to prevent substance misuse, support youth and families affected by substance misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, and strengthen coordinated, data-informed systems that improve long-term community health and safety across Teller and El Paso Counties.



Our **Vision**

A Region with coordinated, accountable systems that protect public health and safety, prevent substance misuse, and ensure individuals struggling with substance misuse have access to effective services – so every individual can overcome addiction, reclaim their lives, and thrive with dignity and purpose.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Full Continuum Approach

Prevent overdose deaths and address opioid misuse across prevention, treatment, and recovery

2. Primary Prevention as Foundation

Invest in prevention to reduce long-term treatment demand and protect youth and families.

3. Treatment & Recovery as Stabilization

Ensure individuals struggling with substance use disorder have access to effective, evidence-based treatment and recovery support.

4. Parents & Families as Central Partners

Youth-focused services will prioritize:

- Parental awareness
- Voluntary participation and informed consent
- Family engagement

5. Evidence-Based & Accountable

All funded efforts must:

- Demonstrate evidence-based or evidence-informed practice
- Include measurable outcomes
- Participate in regional evaluation to measure the efficacy of the program

6. Service Availability Across the Region

Direct funding toward rural communities and subregions with limited access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

7. Fiscal Stewardship

Invest in sustainable strategies that reduce long-term costs associated with:

- Emergency department utilization
- Criminal justice involvement
- Child welfare placements
- Workforce loss



Strategic Pillars



STRATEGIC PILLARS

Defining Our Strategic Pillars

Our strategic pillars represent the key outcomes we aim to achieve over the next three to five years. They reflect what success looks like for our region and communities—not specific programs or individual activities, but the meaningful results we are working toward together.

These pillars are designed to be clear, measurable, and focused on the needs and priorities of our region. They guide our efforts to strengthen public health and safety while supporting long-term stability and well-being for all residents.

By defining these shared goals, we are creating a roadmap for progress that is transparent, accountable, and aligned with the future our community wants to build.



*Prevent and Reduce
Youth Substance
Misuse*

*Expand Access to
Evidence Based
Treatment and
Intervention*

*Increase Recovery
Supports*

*Increase System
Coordination & Data
Collection*

GOAL 1: PREVENT AND REDUCE YOUTH SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Our goal is to reduce youth substance misuse and its impacts by aligning data-driven strategies, community partnerships, and targeted investments.

Over the next five years, we are focused on improving youth health and safety, shifting perceptions and behaviors, and increasing engagement in prevention efforts across our region.

Data Basis:

- Youth prescription misuse is higher than the state in both counties
- Teller youth past-30-day vaping nearly double state rates
- Youth attitudes toward vaping are more favorable than the state
- Youth overestimate peer substance use

5 Year Targets:

- Reduce youth EMS and ER visits for substance misuse by 12%
- Increase percentage of youth participation in prevention programming by 10%
- Increase parent participation in prevention education by 15%
- Reduce self-reported nicotine/vaping use among participating youth by 10%

Funding Levers:

- Evidence-based school prevention programs
- Parent education on prescription storage & monitoring
- Youth mentoring
- Parent education
- After school activities

GOAL 2: EXPAND ACCESS TO EVIDENCE BASED TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION

Our goal is to expand access to timely, evidence-based treatment and intervention services by aligning data-driven strategies, strengthening systems of care, and investing in proven approaches. Over the next five years, we are focused on improving access to treatment, reducing overdose deaths, and ensuring individuals receive the support they need to achieve long-term recovery and stability.

Data Basis:

- Rising overdose deaths in El Paso County
- 429 ER visits for overdose in Teller (2016–2023) Pikes Peak Regional Hospital – Woodland Park
- Mental health provider shortage in Teller (1:460 vs 1:220 state)
- Nearly 1 in 5 adults in El Paso needed but did not receive mental health care

5 Year Targets:

- Increase treatment retention at 6 months by 8%
- Reduce average wait time for treatment by 10%
- Reduce overdose deaths by 15%
- Increase 72 hour contact post OD by 10% (Early intervention)
- Increase residential treatment beds with wrap around services

Funding Levers:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) expansion with integrated behavioral health services
- Rural telehealth treatment access
- Early intervention / diversion programs

GOAL 3: INCREASE RECOVERY SUPPORTS

Our goal is to strengthen recovery supports by building a more connected and comprehensive system of care that extends beyond treatment. Over the next five years, we are focused on improving long-term recovery outcomes by increasing access to stable housing, employment opportunities, and peer and family support services that promote sustained health and stability.

Data Basis:

- Treatment alone is insufficient without long-term support
- Workforce and housing instability contribute to relapses
- Family exposure to substance misuse impacts youth outcomes

5 Year Targets:

- Increase 12-month recovery retention rates by 10%
- Increase stable housing rates among individuals in recovery by 8%
- Increase employment rates among individuals post-treatment by 5% within 90 days of treatment ending
- Increase connection to physical health and dental care services among individuals in recovery by 10%.
- Increase family engagement in recovery support services by 10%

Funding Levers:

- Peer recovery coaching
- Sober living support
- Workforce reintegration programs
- Family recovery services

GOAL 4: INCREASE SYSTEM COORDINATION & DATA COLLECTION

Our goal is to improve system coordination and strengthen data collection by building a more aligned, transparent, and collaborative regional approach. Over the next five years, we are focused on standardizing data practices, enhancing evaluation capacity, and improving coordination across partners to better measure impact, inform decisions, and drive more effective outcomes.

Data Basis:

- Data gaps and inconsistencies across both counties
- Prevention efforts are described as siloed in El Paso
- Need for standardized metrics explicitly identified

5 Year Targets:

- Establish Region 16 Data & Evaluation Team within Year 1
- Implement standardized regional reporting across all funded grantees by end of Year 1
- Publish annual Region 16 Impact Report beginning Year 2

Funding Levers:

- Data system development
- Evaluation capacity
- Shared reporting platform



Funding Strategy



FUNDING STRATEGY

To advance the region's strategic goals, funding will be allocated across four core investment areas. This framework is designed to ensure resources are directed toward evidence-based, data-informed strategies that address the full continuum of care, from prevention through recovery, while strengthening system coordination and accountability.

1. Prevention (Youth, Individual, and Family)

Prevention investments focus on reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors to prevent the onset of substance misuse. Emphasis is placed on youth, families, and early intervention strategies.

Priority investments include:

- School-based and after-school programming
- Parent and caregiver education
- Career and technical pathway exposure for youth
- Family-based prevention supports
- Evidence-based prevention programs

2. Treatment Access

Funding will support increased access to timely, evidence-based treatment services, with a focus on reducing barriers and improving service integration across the region.

Priority investments include:

- Expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Integration of behavioral health services
- Rural treatment access, including telehealth

FUNDING STRATEGY (CONT)

3. Recovery Support

Recovery investments are intended to support long-term stability and sustained recovery outcomes by addressing key social and economic needs.

Priority investments include:

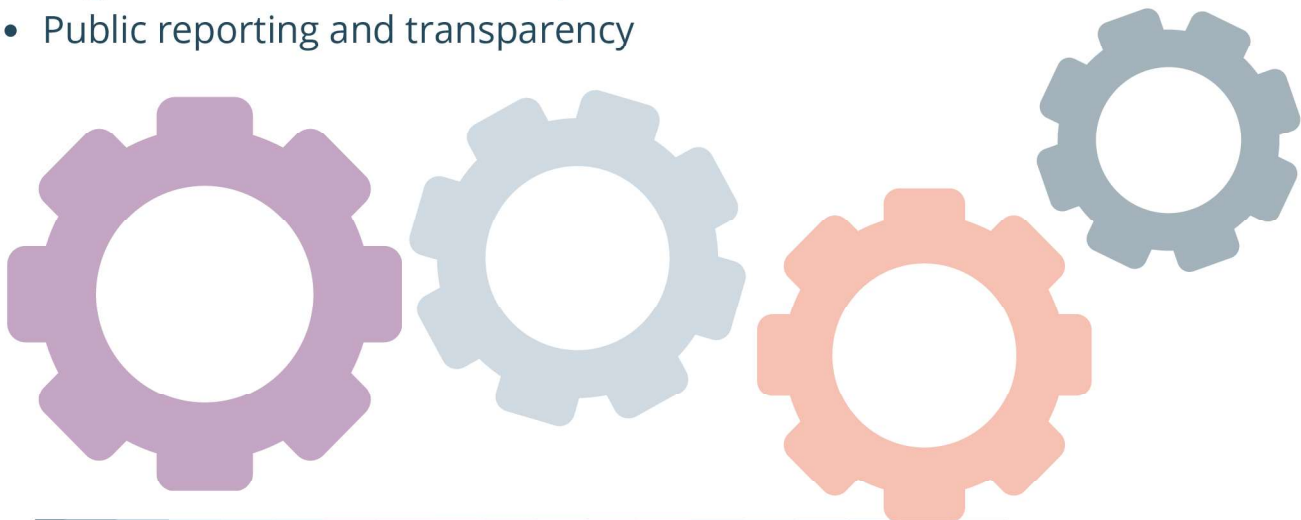
- Peer recovery support services
- Housing stabilization
- Family recovery services
- Navigation services for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system or following overdose events

4. System Coordination and Data

This investment area focuses on strengthening regional coordination, improving data quality, and enhancing accountability across funded programs.

Priority investments include:

- Data infrastructure development
- Evaluation systems and performance measurement
- Regional coordination across partners
- Public reporting and transparency





Accountability & Governance



ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE

The Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council is committed to ensuring that all funding decisions are transparent, results-driven, and aligned with regional priorities. A structured accountability and governance framework will guide how funds are awarded, monitored, and evaluated to ensure responsible stewardship of public resources.

Accountability and Governance

The Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council is committed to transparent, results-driven decision-making and responsible stewardship of public funds. A structured accountability framework ensures that all investments are aligned with regional priorities and produce measurable outcomes.

Performance Monitoring and Reporting

All funded programs are required to report on standardized performance measures to ensure consistency and accountability.

At a minimum, reporting must include:

- Number of individuals served
- Outcomes achieved
- Referrals and follow-through
- Program completion and retention rates
- Collaboration efforts
- Program-specific performance indicators

The Council reviews performance regularly:

- Quarterly: Program-level performance updates
- Annually: Comprehensive review of regional progress and outcomes
- Evaluation and continuous improvement

ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE (CONT)

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Evaluation is central to ensuring funds are used effectively. The Council will:

- Track progress toward 3–5 year targets
- Use standardized metrics across programs
- Identify service gaps and emerging needs
- Adjust funding strategies based on performance

Funding priorities may be revised if progress is limited, gaps are identified, or programs are not meeting expectations.

Funding Oversight

Funding decisions are made through a structured and transparent process and approved by the Council during public meetings.

Key criteria include:

- Alignment with strategic goals
- Evidence-based or evidence-informed approach
- Measurable outcomes
- Demonstrated community need
- Collaboration with partners
- Cost-effectiveness

ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE (CONT)

Coordination and System Alignment

To maximize impact and reduce duplication, the Council prioritizes coordinated, regional approaches by:

- Encouraging multi-agency collaboration
- Prioritizing high-need and underserved areas
- Aligning investments with identified service gaps
- Transparency and Governance

The Council maintains public accountability by:

- Publishing annual reports on progress and outcomes
- Providing updates on funded initiatives
- Conducting funding decisions in public meetings

As the governing body, the Council is responsible for setting priorities, approving funding, and ensuring all investments support improved public health, safety, and long-term recovery outcomes across the region.



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REGION 16

