



McDowell Impact, McDowell County's first-ever peer-support program, is an innovative, multiagency collaboration utilizing evidence-based practices and peer-support specialists to promote and assist substance use recovery. These programs have been shown to lower emergency department usage and re-hospitalization rates while improving treatment outcomes and quality of life.

McDowell Impact supports individuals who struggle with substance use and related challenges like infectious disease, family separation, chronic homelessness and overdose. Our certified peer-support specialists help those in their community navigate recovery and access resources to keep them safe, healthy and connected.

We're Here to Help, Not Judge

A peer-support specialist is a person with lived experience in recovery from substance use disorder, a mental health condition or both. We provide experience, strength, and hope to others experiencing similar challenges. **We've been in the same shoes as those we want to help**, and we walk alongside our peers to serve as a positive, non-judgmental support as they begin their recovery journey.

How It Works

Peer-support services benefit both the individual in need and the community at large.

We offer support in whatever form it needs to take to help those in recovery get well, be well, and stay well:

- Individual-recovery support
- Peer-led recovery groups
- Transportation
- Linkage to services
- Harm-reduction services
- Narcan training and distribution
- Assistance with accessing community resources

Peer support also increases self-efficacy and pro-social community connections, a protective factor against recidivism to the justice system.

Peer Support Locations

McDowell Access to Care and Health (MATCH)

To connect those diagnosed with infectious diseases, including Hepatitis C, to appropriate and effective treatment.

McDowell County Department of Social Services

To support families at risk for foster care placement and increase the number of reunified families.

McDowell County EMS - Community Paramedic Program

To support those who have experienced overdose, or are at high risk of overdose, and increase access to treatment and immediate support.

McDowell Mission Ministries

To reduce homelessness by promoting independence and supporting those transitioning from homelessness into permanent housing.

Contact Us

If you'd like to learn more about the McDowell Impact program, make a referral, or request services, please call us at **(828) 237-3502**.