

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features three concentric blue circles of varying sizes. Two thin blue lines intersect at the top right, forming a large 'X' shape that extends across the page.

# **Los Alamos County DWI Planning Program**

## **FY26-FY28 Strategic Plan**

### **Reviewed and Revised By:**

- Sara Martinez, Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator
- Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council, Juanita McNiel, Chair
- Lori Montoya, Epidemiologist/Data Manager, Montaña Education and Evaluation Consulting
- Concha Montaña, Lead Epidemiologist/Lead Evaluator, Montaña Education and Evaluation Consulting

**Date Developed: June 3, 2025**

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page Numbers</b>
Introduction and County Demographics	<b>2-4</b>
Agency Information: Los Alamos County DWI Program	<b>5-8</b>
Data From Comprehensive Needs Assessment	<b>8-12</b>
Strategic Plan Process	<b>12</b>
Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council's Purpose and Objectives	<b>13</b>
Vision/Mission and Guiding Principles	<b>14-15</b>
Roles and Responsibilities As Defined In By-Laws	<b>16</b>
Los Alamos County DWI Program: Services Provided	<b>17-18</b>
PEST Analysis	<b>19-22</b>
SWOT Analysis	<b>23-26</b>
Review of Initiatives/Activities Required By The Grant and Program Priorities	<b>28-29</b>
Los Alamos County DWI Program Strategic Plan Matrix/Templates	<b>30-38</b>
Next Steps and Appendices List	<b>39</b>
Appendix A: Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council Membership List	<b>41</b>
Appendix B: 2026 Los Alamos County Needs Assessment	<b>42</b>
Appendix C: Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda	<b>43</b>

## **INTRODUCTION AND COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS**

### **Introduction:**

Los County DWI Program adheres to the substance abuse prevention planning procedures and the concepts outlined in the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a planning process for preventing substance use and misuse. The five steps and two guiding principles of the SPF offer prevention professionals a comprehensive course for addressing substance misuse and related behavioral health problems facing their communities. The five stages of the SPF include the following: Needs Assessment, Capacity Building, Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation. The two guiding principles embedded in each of the five steps of the SPF include: Cultural Competency and Sustainability. Evaluation, although not considered a guiding principle by SAMHSA, is also embedded in all the stages of the SPF.

The effectiveness of the SPF begins with a clear understanding of community needs and involves program staff and collaborative partners in all stages of the planning process. The Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator Sara Martinez, Lori Montoya, Epidemiologist/Data Manager for Montaña Education and Evaluation Consulting, and the Lead Program Evaluator Concha Montaña created a process for collecting countywide and statewide data to develop, edit, and disseminate a comprehensive needs assessment. The formatting of the data in this document reflects this process. Along with the FY26 Needs Assessment, the team created a procedure and an instrument for prioritizing the data. The Prioritization tool filters the data into Primary Considerations and Secondary Considerations to ensure that the data is ranked in order of urgency or significance. This will guarantee the program's ability to meet the needs of the community/county.

The Evaluation Team categorized the data by looking at specific criteria for prioritizing the data. For the Primary considerations the Evaluation Team reviewed the following conditions: Severity (county ranking within the state), Severity (Rate per 100,00 or other numerical category the data was available in), Burden (number or size of problem), Burden (economic and impact), and Burden (social impact), and Trend Characteristics-increasing, decreasing, stability – compared to the state trends).

For the Secondary considerations, the Evaluation Team reviewed the data's preventability or changeability, the capacity of the county to create change and the resources available to address the need, perceived gaps between capacity/resources and need, and the community readiness, political will, and public concern for the problem.

The Evaluation Team and the Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator Sara Martinez collected statistical information from several national, state, and local data resources and used the findings to inform decisions about prevention of substance abuse, treatment, and recovery programming. The data informs inter-agency planning and collaboration. Los Alamos County DWI Program staff ensure that the data is maximized and that all planning for prevention and treatment is data driven. This group's goal is to improve planning and evaluation and to ensure access and leverage of community resources. The FY26-FY29 Strategic Plan will be developed in 2025 and will utilize the Needs Assessment to provide a conceptual foundation for developing and implementing evidence-based prevention strategies. It will promote efforts to facilitate both programmatic and environmental changes, with the intention of improving outcomes. The Needs Assessment will guide decision making processes which will be defined in the Strategic Plan.

The Evaluation Team and the Cibola County DWI Program Coordinator Sara Martinez worked collaboratively to collect statistics from several sources including data from the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), NM Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile Report, NM Community Survey (NMCS), New Mexico Department of Transportation/University of NM Annual Report, the Administrative Office of The Courts (AOC), and from the Juvenile Justice Charges and Referrals Report (CYFD). The data was prioritized, resources to address those priorities were identified, and the gaps in service were determined. A prioritization process was used to assess primary and secondary considerations for defining the capacity and readiness of Los Alamos County DWI Program to address the needs that were identified as priorities.

Los Alamos County DWI Program staff recognize that the Needs Assessment should be the foundation for all program planning in the county and that all the strategies selected for implementation must be data driven. The Needs Assessment will be updated yearly to ensure that most current data is available for prevention, compliance, and treatment planning year by year. The Needs Assessment is also used to determine communitywide change and helps determine whether the objectives identified in the Scope of Work (SOW) were met.

### **County Demographics and Agency Information:**

Los Alamos County is located on the Pajarito Plateau of Northern New Mexico. It is approximately 90 miles north of Albuquerque, 35 miles from Santa Fe, and 55 miles from Taos. The rural and smallest country by area in the state is home to 19,675 (July 2024, NM Census Report Estimates) with 168 persons per square mile. The City of Los Alamos, meaning The Poplars is the census-designated place in Los Alamos County, New Mexico. Its population in 2020 was 13,179 (most current data). The City of Los Alamos is recognized as one of the development and creation places of the atomic bomb, the primary objective of the Manhattan Project by Los Alamos National Laboratory during World War II. It is one of two population centers in the county known as Los Alamos County; the other is White Rock (Wikipedia 2024).

Los Alamos County is home to federally recognized Tribal entities. The San Ildefonso and Santa Clara Pueblos, sovereign Native American tribes, have lands located within and adjacent to Los Alamos County. Additionally, the Santa Clara Indian Reservation near Los Alamos has historical cliff dwellings that were home to Pueblo Indians from about 1250 to 1577 A.D. The Ancestral Pueblo people also lived in the area from approximately A.D. 1150 to 1550, building canyon-side dwellings and mesa-top villages.

The county's population consists of the following ethnic groups: White alone non-Hispanics make up the largest percentage of the population at 70.2%, while Hispanics or Latinos make up 18.1%, 1.7% are Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander make up 0.1%, Asian at 7.4%, American Indian/Alaskan Natives at 1.7%, and 2.8% identify with two or more races. The female population rate in Los Alamos County is 47.5% while males represent 52.5% of the population. The US Census does not report on other gender identification. Four-point six percent (4.6%) of the population are people under five (5) years old, 20.7% are under eighteen (18) years old, and 18.6% are sixty-five (65) years old and over.

A full 16.6% speak a language other than English at home. In Los Alamos County is the richest county in the state, with an average household income of \$143,188 compared to New Mexico at \$62,125 and U.S. at \$78,538. Only 3.8% of residents live below the federal poverty level (compared to 11.5% in the US and 17.8% in NM). A smaller percentage of children from birth to 17 years old live in poverty (3.0%). The

unemployment rate in Los Alamos County is 1.5% compared to the state of NM at 4.2% and the US at 4.3% (October 2024 data). 3.8% of children are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits compared to 17.0% in New Mexico. 2.1% of families in the county are uninsured compared to NM at 11.1%. For the most recent 12-month period ending July 2024, an estimated 4.8% (per 1,000) of child abuse cases investigated in Los Alamos County were found to be substantiated victims. In NM it is common for children to live in single-parent families – only 19.1% of all children in Los Alamos County are living this scenario, compared to 33.0% in NM and 28.0% nationally; 7.4% of all grandparents that live in poverty are solely responsible for their grandchildren (2023 Kids Count).

The US Census Quick Facts report shows that 11.1% of its population is foreign born. 98.3% of its residents (25+ years of age) have acquired a high school education (NM at 87.7% and the US at 89.4%) with 68.2% having received a bachelor's degree or higher (NM at 30.2% and US at 35.0%).

New Mexico has continuously been at the bottom of national rankings for the overall health of children. In 2021 and 2022 NM ranked 34<sup>th</sup> in overall child well-being. New Mexico is once again ranked 50th out of the 50 states for child well-being in 2023. This is the fifth time the state has ranked last in the nation.

There is one school district in Los Alamos County: Los Alamos Public Schools. The total enrollment is approximately 3,724 K-12 Grade students with a student-teacher ratio of 17 to 1. Sixty percent (60%) of students are at least proficient in math and 67% in reading. Los Alamos Public Schools was ranked #2 of 90 schools in the state for Best School District. It is ranked #11 of 87 for Best Teachers (*New Mexico Kids Count*, 2023 and NICHE Los Alamos Public Schools Report Card). Los Alamos Public Schools serve all of Los Alamos County including the communities of Los Alamos and White Rock. There is a total of seven (7) schools, five (5) elementary schools, one (1) middle school, and one (1) high school.

Nine-point-five percent (9.5%) of Los Alamos County students are qualified to receive and/or participate in the National School Lunch Program, compared to 73.4% of New Mexico students. Eighty-five-point-nine (85.9%) of students were present ninety percent (90%) of the required school days in 2024. Los Alamos Public Schools have a 97.0% graduation compared to 66.1% in NM. The dropout rate for the County is not available for this report. Chronic absenteeism rates in New Mexico are highest in the early and later grade levels, with absenteeism rates hovering at 40 percent.

A Gap Analysis in seven (7) priority areas was conducted by KSA for The Community Services Department of Los Alamos County in 2020. Access to primary care physicians, healthcare access, healthcare workforce, and lack of health insurance were recurring issues identified through the gap analysis process. Lack of affordable and acceptable housing stock appeared to be a high housing burden to the county. Another troubling indicator identified in the gap analysis is the culture of alcohol acceptance and drug use including substance use drug overdose. Respondents of the survey reported high levels of mental health issues related to stress, depression, and anxiety. Suicidal ideation is higher in the county than the average rate in NM. There appears to be a sizeable “Near Poor Population” (almost 11% of working poor or 1,941 residents) were identified through this study identifying this issue as the “silent but sizeable near poor population”. It was reported that there is a lack of acknowledgement or awareness of this status, including denial by those individuals who are experiencing this disparity. The sixth issue identified in the study is concerns involving two demographic groups that are experiencing health and social service gaps. There is a need for social, mental, family support, and physical health resources within the senior population. Emerging risk issues including homelessness with teens and/or tweens is a growing concern. The seventh issue identified in the study is a lack of affordable and available childcare. This deficit is significant for those parents who are

employed part-time or full-time (2020 Gap Analysis Report - Community Services Department of Los Alamos County).

Agency Information: Los Alamos County DWI Program):

The Los Alamos County DWI Program administers programs and services that are designed to reduce alcohol use/misuse among youth and adults including binge drinking, DWI, alcohol related motor vehicle crashes and crash deaths, and the number of alcohol related fatalities throughout the County. The Los Alamos County DWI program's mission is to assist with incidences of DWI, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, alcohol-related domestic violence, and underage drinking in Los Alamos County. The DWI Program receives funding for implementing evidence-based strategies funded by the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) local distribution funds.

Los Alamos County Commission, the County DWI Planning Council, and the Joint Task Force serve as planning and advisory bodies. Collaboration with law enforcement, government, agencies, youth, and other community members is paramount to the success of strategies implemented by the County DWI Program. The following are program components initiated at Los Alamos County DWI Program.

**Program Components:**

- Community Wellness and Outreach: Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention
- Community Wellness and Outreach: Enforcement - Joint Tasks Force
- Community Wellness and Outreach: Public Information and Education
- Alternative Sentencing: Screening of DWI offenders
- Alternative Sentencing: Compliance Monitoring/Treatment of DWI Offenders
- Community Wellness and Outreach: Coordination/Planning and Evaluation
- Treatment: Treatment of DWI Offenders
- Program Administration

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on Los Alamos County residents. Included in this impact is the inability for KSA to complete the process for the Gap Analysis. The Gap Analysis was unable to identify possible systemic impacts due to COVID-19 for the County. As previously mentioned, Los Alamos County residents reported isolation as a healthcare concern therefore it is assumed that COVID-19 heightened the problem.

Overall, people of color were the most disproportionately affected by the virus causing additional stress for individuals as health disparities rise. job loss, frontline jobs, COVID-19 testing, healthcare, and health insurance are some of the most common disparities families in the county are experiencing. This may impact a rise in substance use among both youth and adults in the future. Poverty in the county may also exacerbate inequities related to access social support, housing, and food insecurities. Families are being burdened by housing and rent as finances in some households' decline.

The COVID-19 pandemic played a big part in the 2021 and 2023 YRRS results. When data were collected in the fall and winter of 2021, schools were facing COVID-related closures and high rates of absenteeism, resulting in decreased YRRS participation at the student and school level. COVID may also have altered student behavior, as there were fewer opportunities for social interaction, and fewer opportunities to engage in socially related high-risk behaviors. COVID also may have affected the emotional well-being of students. The 2021 YRRS included questions about the effect of COVID on students' lives" (2021 YRRS Report).

The 2021 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) participants responded to questions about how COVID-19 impacted them and their families. In Los Alamos County, 38.5% of high school students said that during and following COVID-19 they felt frequent mental distress compared to 39.1% in NM. 10.3% of students reported that a parent or adult in their family lost their job while 24.3% of the total sample in NM said the same. 2.7% of Cibola County youth said they suffered hunger during the pandemic. 8.5% of NM students said the same. In Los Alamos County 45.3% said that schoolwork is more difficult during and after the pandemic compared to 66.0% in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Community Survey (NMCS) was not implemented in Los Alamos County in 2023, in 2024, nor in 2025 therefore data for alcohol use outcomes, prescription drug use outcomes, perception about the risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol laws, access to alcohol from the community and stores/restaurants, perception and attitude toward use by young adults and adults are not available.

#### 2025-2026 Agency Goals, Objectives, and Activities Addressed Within The DFA/LDWI Grant:

Los Alamos County DWI Program is addressing two long term goals. The Community Wellness and Outreach prevention goals, objectives, and activities in the Scope of Work are aimed at reducing underage binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI among youth and adults in the County. They also aim at reducing alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and deaths (long-term consequence). Prevention activities will increase life skills and/or decrease risk factors for DWI and/or alcohol abuse including alcohol related domestic violence. The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) will be used to develop and update the Strategic Plan. The plan must meet the needs of the community. The Needs Assessment guides the planning by providing a data foundation for decision making.

Goal 1 addresses the reduction of underage drinking, underage binge drinking, drinking, and driving among school age youth and student resiliency factors among program participants. The middle school and high school Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) measures and compares data between years for alcohol related outcomes for teens in the entire county including underage drinking and driving. The 2023 YRRS (high school) and (middle school) are the most current information available to Los Alamos County and will be used as baseline data until new reports are released by the state.

A pre and posttest evaluation design will be used to measure the direct service strategies implemented in 2026 administered through the Drivers Ed Class. The community events include a Summer Concert Series, ScienceFest, Community Health Fair and Rodeo, Senior Appreciation Night, Homecoming Movie Night, the Dare Program, and other drug free events. These events and activities will be evaluated through focus groups, interviews, and/or through a short satisfaction survey.

Goal 2: The Treatment and Community Wellness and Outreach (Enforcement) within the LDWI strategy requirements address the reduction of adult binge drinking and adult DWI. It analyzes the community's perception about the risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol laws. The NM Epidemiology Profile Report measures the long-term outcomes and consequences for the indicators listed in this goal for the entire county. The NM Community Survey (NMCS) has the potential of measuring alcohol related outcomes and perception of risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol related laws. Both of these resources focus on individuals 18+. The Los Alamos County DWI Program has the potential and opportunity to participate in the New Mexico Community Survey (NMCS) with the guidance of PIRE, the statewide OSAP Evaluation Team. This survey will be administered in February-March 2026.

Goal 3: The Alternative Sentencing (Screening and Compliance Monitoring/Tracking) Component of the LDWI strategies addresses the reduction in recidivism by increasing the number of DWI offenders who complete their mandated sanction. It addresses an increase in the number of DWI offender referrals for appropriate treatment. Evaluation of the LDWI compliance and treatment components will help determine whether these treatments are effective, and if they are, which approaches are most effective for which people and for which disorders.

An assessment of the benefits received by the clients and their readiness for change will be determined. Successful discharge of clients and their longevity, including recidivism, will be assessed. Strategies for addressing and evaluating recidivism will need to be determined in FY26. Evaluation will also assess factors that may have contributed to substance abuse, what factors may contribute to behavior change, and which strategies are most effective in supporting client recovery. Additional resources for measuring change for this goal includes the Judiciary AOC Report, the New Mexico NM Transportation/UNM Traffic and Crash Report, and the DWI Report.

The Compliance and Treatment Exit Interview will identify the client's satisfaction with the services they receive, the effectiveness of those services, and change in behavior between the beginning of the program and their graduation following completion of their sanctions. The following are the possible goals and objectives in 2026 should the Strategic Planning Committee wish to use as a way to measure success. These goals may change with the development of the Strategic Plan in 2028.

<b>Goal 1:</b>	<b>To implement evidence-based curriculum and prevention activities with youth residing in Los Alamos County resulting in the reduction of binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI.</b>
<b>Goal 2:</b>	<b>Provide compliance monitoring/tracking and evidence-based treatment practices to DWI offenders referred to the Los Alamos County DWI Program by the courts and/or self-referrals.</b>
<b>Goal 3:</b>	<b>Research and develop new resources to sustain programs beyond current funding.</b>

**Goal 1. Objective 1:** Through the implementation of evidence-based education including the implementation of an evidence-based curriculum, increase the development of positive life skills, decrease risk factors for DWI and/or other alcohol-related outcomes which can result in a 5% reduction in underage drinking, binge drinking, DWI, and other problem adolescent behaviors among youth participating in the evidence-based programs by June 30, 2029.

**Goal 1. Objective 2:** Through the implementation of evidence-based practices and activities including alternative activities and information dissemination increase community safety, awareness, and knowledge regarding the risk of alcohol and other ATOD use, build awareness of mental, emotional, and behavioral health, reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors, and increase knowledge and awareness of available prevention programs and services by June 2029.

**Goal 1. Objective 3:** Increase collaboration and coordination with other organizations and agencies to implement community-based process strategies that will result in the leveraging of services, access to health service, and to increase the support of several shared communitywide initiatives and projects in Los Alamos County by June 2029.



**Goal 1. Objective. 4:** Assess and increase public knowledge about programs, goals, and Los Alamos County DWI Program and partner's accomplishments by June 2029.

**Goal 2. Objective 1:** Increase perceived risk of legal consequences for breaking alcohol-related laws by youth and adults by 3% by June 2029 by highly publicizing saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints, and SIU activities (compliance checks and shoulder taps) and by implementing communitywide media campaigns.

**Goal 2. Objective 2:** Increase the number of DWI Offender referrals to appropriate treatment services by 100.0%, decrease the number of DWI offender recidivism, and improve the client's social, occupational, and psychological functioning by June 30, 2029.

**Goal 2. Objective 3:** Reduce alcohol related death rate consequences, increase DWI arrests and citations, and decrease the number of DWI repeat offenders in Los Alamos County by June 30, 2029.

**Goal 3. Objective 1:** Identify sustainable long-term diverse resources and funding resources to expand current services and to strengthen and support program initiatives through a number of years.

The FY25-FY26 Comprehensive Needs Assessment was completed, and the program staff and the evaluation team relied on its current data/assessments, current archival data, and other documents to guide the strategic planning process and to focus the program strategies. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed and updated every three years.

An environmental assessment was conducted by outlining thoughts and ideas through a PEST analysis (political, legal, economic, social, and technology trends) and a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses and barriers, opportunities, and threats). The information within this report will be presented to the CWC members and the DWI Planning Council and they will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback for possible revisions to this plan if needed. The environmental assessment and the 2025-2026 Needs Assessment Summary helped determine the data patterns and trends in Los Alamos County that may impact the group's success and/or barriers in achieving the identified goals. It also identified implications that the trends may have on their accomplishments and/or failures. The environmental analysis process helped pinpoint Los Alamos County current strengths and challenges and opportunities that it is likely to face over the next three years. This procedure facilitated a context for establishing priority of needs and developing goals, objectives, and activities. A list of the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council and the CWC membership are attached in Appendix A of this report. The FY25-26 Los Alamos County Needs Assessment Summary is attached to Appendix B.

### **Data Within This Report/Taken From the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Needs Assessment:**

In adherence to the first step of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), the Los Alamos County DWI Program reviewed the FY25-FY26 Needs Assessment and created a summary of the findings to help guide the process for developing the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a structured process that guides communities in preventing and reducing substance misuse. The following data represents a profile of the substance use/misuse and other alcohol related problems in Los Alamos County. The data is used to prioritize goals, objectives, and activities within this strategic plan. The information serves as a foundation for planning and implementation of prevention and treatment strategies. The statistics are taken from several resources including the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) –

Middle School and High School, Administrative Office of The Courts (AOC), NM Transportation Department Profile/UNM, and the NM Epidemiology Substance Abuse Profile.

*Youth Substance Use/Misuse in Los Alamos County – YRRS High School and Middle School:*

The statistics outlined below indicate a need for prevention services in Los Alamos County. The Los Alamos County DWI Program implemented strategies that have been proven effective nationally and three (3) of the six (6) indicators for high school students are moving in the right direction. For middle school, the patterns, and trends for three (3) of the four (4) measures are moving in the right direction. High school students who reported ever riding with a drinking driver increased by 31.1% (females 17.7% - males 13.3%) and students who drank before the age of 13 increased by 42.0% (females 15.9% - males 13.1%). Texting while driving also increased by 30.8% (females 50.0% - males 43.9%). These measures do not show promising results while moving in the wrong direction (lower is better). On a positive note, binge drinking decreased by -41.9% females 7.6% - males 4.7%), current drinking by -9.4% (females 19.2% - males 17.0%), and drinking and driving (DWI) decreased by -43.4% (females 0.8% - males 4.3%). Females rated higher than males in all the alcohol related outcomes except in DWI where males are drinking and driving more than females. Although some of the alcohol related outcomes for high school students are showing positive results, the rates are still extremely high. Underage drinking is a serious public health problem in the County, State, and US.

Middle school students' alcohol use outcomes decreased for two (2) of the alcohol use outcomes. Only one (1) indicator increased thus moving in the wrong direction. Heavy episodic drinking increased by 64.7%. Patterns and trends for those who reported riding with a drinking driver were not measured. Data prior to 2023 is not available. Current drinking decreased by -9.4% (Females 1.2% - Males 5.2%). The onset of alcohol use (first drink before the age 11) decreased by -36.4% (females 5.3% - males 8.1%). Males more than females increased in all the alcohol use outcomes.

People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared with those who have their first drink at age 20 or older (25). The risk that a person would develop alcohol abuse was more than doubled for people who began drinking before age 15 compared with those who began drinking at age 21 (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Publication).

High school students reported access to alcohol from someone who bought it for them (6.3%), someone gave it to them (34.2%), they gave someone money to buy it for them (21.7%, and 11.5% said they took it.

Of middle school students, 23.8% said it is easy to access alcohol compared to 20.6% in the state. Only 85.2% said it is of high risk and or moderate risk to drink alcohol (state 73.0%). Of the same students, 93.7% indicated it is wrong for them to drink alcohol (state 88.5%) and 92.6% believe their parents think it is wrong for them to drink alcohol (state 91.9%).

*Youth Illegal Drug use, Tobacco Use, Behaviors Associated With Violence and Mental Health Measures in Los Alamos County - YRRS High School and Middle School:*

*Mental Health Measures:* Among high school students, all the mental health indicators are trending in the desired direction except non-suicidal injury and those who reported attempting suicide. Although the

measures are improving in two (2) of the four (4) indicators, the high rates for mental health issues continue to be a concern in Los Alamos County. There is a decrease among high school students who reported feeling sadness and hopelessness decreasing by -7.2%. The rate for those who considered suicide decreased by -7.6%, those who attempted suicide increased by 15.6%, and non-suicidal self-injury increased by 4.0%.

Among middle school students, two (2) of the four (4) mental health measures are moving in the right direction. Those that thought about killing themselves increased by 36.4% and those that tried killing themselves increased by 93.5%. Those that made a suicide plan decreased by -7.6%. Frequent mental distress decreased by -2.8%.

Suicide is death caused by injuring oneself with the intent to die. A suicide attempt is when someone harms themselves with any intent to end their life, but they do not die because of their actions. Many factors can increase the risk of suicide or protect against it. Suicide is connected to other forms of injury and violence. For example, people who have experienced violence, including child abuse, bullying, or sexual violence have a higher suicide risk. Being connected to family and community support and having easy access to healthcare can decrease suicidal thoughts and behaviors (CDC Suicide Prevention, March 2025).

Teachers, Counselors, and those working with and serving youth have noted a drastic increase in students suffering mental health issues. Additionally, students who were already having issues academically along with a notable number of students that did not have problems in school prior to COVID are now struggling academically.

High school students in Los Alamos County reported finding schoolwork more difficult during and following the pandemic (38.3% compared to 66.6% in the state). Students indicated that during pandemic they went hungry some of the time more often (2.7%) and 10.3% said a parent or adult in the home lost their job due to COVID-19. Another 38.5% said they suffered frequent mental distress during the pandemic (2021 YRRS reported 26.3% of the students reporting frequent mental distress not pandemic related). COVID-19 and the aftermath continue to have a big negative impact on young people.

*Behaviors Associated With Violence:* Again, middle school students continue to show increases in three (3) of the four (4) patterns and trend measures in behaviors associated with violence. Being in physical fight showed an increase of 6.2% between 2019 and 2021. This rate is lower than the state. Being bullied on school property increased by 19.7%. Carrying a weapon increased by 43.7% and those who reported being bullied electronically decreased by -6.9%.

High school students showed decreases in three (4) of the eight (8) measures related to behaviors associated with violence. Physical fighting increased by 40.4%, physical dating violence increased by 75.0%, and being bullied on school property increased by 55.6%. Being forced to have sexual intercourse increased by 60.4%. Those who skipped school for safety issues increased by 75.0%. Those who reported being sexually assaulted decreased by -14.0% and electronic bullying by -11.8%.

*Illegal Drug Use Outcomes:* Four (4) of the six (6) measures for illegal drug use for high school youth decreased. Two (2) out of four (4) indicators for middle school youth show positive outcomes. Use of cocaine among high school students decreased by -27.2%. Methamphetamines decreased by -40.0%. inhalant use decreased by -5.6%, and improper use of prescription painkillers decreased by -11.9%. Current marijuana use increased by 23.5% while heroin use increased by 200.0%, a significantly high rate.

Improper use of prescription painkillers increased by 17.9% among middle school. Current marijuana use increased by 46.2%. Middle school inhalant use decreased by -22.2%. Cocaine use decreased by -16.7%.

*Tobacco Use:* Current smoking, any tobacco use, and current e-cigarette use increased among both high school and middle school students. For high school students, current smoking has increased by 16.9%, any-tobacco use increased by 6.0%, and current e-cigarette use increased by 4.1%. These indicators are moving in the wrong direction. Middle school students' survey results showed unexpected findings as well with current e-cigarettes increasing by 108.3% and current smoking increasing by 50.0%. Decrease is the desired outcome.

### Substance Abuse Consequences - 2024 New Mexico Epidemiology Profile:

The NM SA Epidemiology Profile Report was prepared by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Epidemiology and Response Division (ERD). A combined 5-year period is used when presenting the data.

The patterns and trends for alcohol related indicators among adults for alcohol related death, alcohol related chronic disease rate, alcohol related chronic liver disease rate, adult binge drinking, adult heavy drinking, and opioid overdose (related emergency department visits) all moved in an undesired direction between years. Drug overdoses, alcohol related injury death, suicide related deaths, and adult heavy drinking rates are all moving in the right direction. DWI remained the same. All the rates for all the alcohol related consequence indicators are lower than the state and rank higher than 20<sup>th</sup> in the state.

### Number of DWI Arrests, Convictions, and DWI Crashes – 2023 NM Transportation Report/UNM:

This data is referenced in the Department of NM Transportation/UNM for New Mexico and Los Alamos County. This report is produced by UNM for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Bureau. The information is also taken from the 2023 Judiciary Administration of the Courts DWI Report referenced as AOC Report 2023. The Arrests, Convictions, and alcohol-involved data were used to create the graphs below reflecting the most current data available in the indicator categories listed.

Los Alamos County is responsible for 0.3% (12 of 10,636) of the total DWI Arrests in New Mexico during 2023. The rate of DWI arrests in Los Alamos County decreased by -25.0%. The number of alcohol-involved crashes decreased from (6) in 2022 to (4) in 2023 (by -8.8%).

The decrease in arrests can be interpreted as a positive outcome or it may be viewed as an unexpected finding. Some may view this result as less arrests because of fewer DWI drivers yet others will interpret this outcome as less arrests, less police presence.

There is a decrease in the number of DWI convictions showing unexpected outcomes (by -30.0% - total repeat and first convictions). Fortunately, there was an increase in the number of repeat DWI convictions (by 33.3%). There was a decrease in the number of drivers with a first DWI conviction (by -41.2) between 2022 and 2023. When there is an arrest for DWI, conviction rates should be executed, and conviction rates should increase. This data shows a decrease in the total DWI offender conviction rates indicating unexpected findings.

The number of alcohol related crashes in Los Alamos County decreased between 2022 and 2023 showing a positive outcome (by -8.8%). Alcohol related fatal crash rates remained the same between 2022 and 2023 but decreased from one (1) in 2021. DWI Arrests resulting in conviction is 0.3% (15 arrest cases). 0.0% resulted in dismissal (0 arrest cases) and 0.2% are awaiting disposition (8 arrest cases)

**DWI Cases and Dispositions – New Mexico Judiciary, 2023 District and Magistrate Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Annual Statistical Report:**

The District Court shows a total of two (2) cases with a 50.0% conviction rate, 0.0% acquittal rate, and 50.0% dismissal rate. In District Court of the (50.0%) dismissal rate identified above, (40.0%) were dismissed by the Prosecutor.

In Magistrate Court, 60% of the 5 cases resulted in convictions in 2023. In 2023, there were (0.0%) acquittals. The Magistrate Court's 2023 dismissal rate was (40.0%). Of the (40.0%) 2023 Magistrate Court dismissal rate, a total of (20.0%) were dismissed by the Prosecutor and 20.0% were identified as "other" dismissals.

**STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS**

In adherence to the third step of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), Los Alamos County DWI Program developed the Strategic Plan based on data and evidence. An understanding of the external and internal environment was also vital in this process as it was important for the group to identify gaps in service and the group's capacity to address the needs before forming strategies for implementation in the Plan and in the 2026 LDWI Scope of Work (SOW). The environmental scan called the Political/Legal, Economic, Social and Trends/Technology (PEST) was reviewed. These analyses created a framework to determine if the goals and objectives are in line with the group's vision and mission. The PEST analysis describes the external environmental factors that may impact on the work that the Los Alamos County DWI Program will achieve in the upcoming three years.

The group also reviewed the internal assessment SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses/Barriers, Opportunities and Threats Analysis). This process evaluates the characteristics that give the Los Alamos County DWI Program an advantage over others. It also determines the characteristics that place it at a disadvantage relative to others. The elements that the project could use to its advantage are outlined as well as factors in the environment that could cause trouble for the group in accomplishing its goals and objectives.

Program staff and the Los Alamos County Planning Council reviewed the mission and vision and the Council's purpose to remind the team of the factors that need to be considered when prioritizing strategies for the development of the Strategic Plan.

## **Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council's Purpose and Objectives**

### **The purpose of the DWI Planning Council is to:**

- The Los Alamos County Planning Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Planning Council,” shall act in an advisory capacity to the Los Alamos County Council (“County Council”) in matters relating to DWI for the purposes of securing funding from the State of New Mexico and other sources.
- The DWI Program Coordinator shall serve as the liaison between the Planning Council and any other group or agency, including the County Council, the State of New Mexico, any contractors, or other external agencies.
- Los Alamos County shall serve as the fiscal agent for any funding procured by the Los Alamos County DWI Program and shall administer any contracts awarded to or by the Los Alamos County DWI Program.

### **Objectives of the Planning Council:**

- To reduce the number of persons driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the County and the State of New Mexico.
- To increase personal and community safety and awareness in matters related to DWI, alcohol dependency, and alcohol and substance abuse.
- To coordinate related efforts with those of other organizations and agencies
- To support those charged with enforcing our laws and keeping the County safe; and,
- To promote education regarding DWI and underage drinking.

## Vision and Mission Statements

Program staff and the DWI Planning Council reviewed the mission statement as well as the guiding principles to confirm that they correspond to the work that the Los Alamos County DWI Program is doing and to ensure that they will still relate to the goals and objectives that were developed during the strategic planning process.

### **Vision Statement:**

A vision statement is a short formal declaration of the organization's future goals. It summarizes the organization's purpose, goals, and desired outcomes simply and to the point. It is intended to guide decision-making and sets a defined direction for planning and execution of program strategies. Los Alamos County DWI Program has not created a vision statement and will set DWI Planning Council time to plan to develop one in the coming months.

### **Mission Statement:** *Written Within The DWI Planning Council By Laws:*

The purpose of the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council is to prevent and reduce the incidence of DWI, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, alcohol-related domestic violence, and underage drinking in Los Alamos County.

# **Los Alamos County Core Guiding Principles/Core Values**

To help Los Alamos County DWI Program staff and the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council manage daily business, operate more effectively, and set standards for behavior and positive attitudes within the workplace, Los Alamos County DWI Program and the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council have established guiding principles that shape the culture of the work environment and ensures employee understanding of organizational values. The following are the Core Guiding Principles established in 2025. The Guiding Principles are important because they can help with decision-making and with daily operations.

1. Implement multi-component interventions in Los Alamos County that combine several strategies focusing on policies, programs, and practices.
2. Build trust through collaboration and partnerships.
3. Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors among youth residing in Los Alamos County.
4. Utilize data to inform planning and decision making.
5. Analyze driving and driving data to reduce drunk driving.
6. Engage youth, families, and community in prevention efforts.
7. Support structure, procedures, policy, and values that reflect diversity of the community.
8. Collaborate with enforcement agencies to ensure community safety and increase the perceived risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol laws.
9. Treat all people with dignity, respect, and compassion.
10. Collaborate with community organizations and agencies to leverage all resources – private, not-for-profit, and state – to coordinate a comprehensive approach so as not to duplicate efforts and make best use of resources available for this work.
11. Hold each other accountable for completing the work and be transparent through honest communication.



## **Roles and Responsibilities as Defined In By-Laws**

To accomplish the Los Alamos County DWI Program's Purpose, the DWI Planning Council will:

- A. The Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Planning Council" shall act in an advisory capacity to the Los Alamos County Council ("County Council") in matters relating to DWI for the purposes of securing funding from the State of New Mexico and other sources.
- B. The DWI Program Coordinator shall serve as the liaison between the Planning Council and any other group or agency, including the County Council, the State of New Mexico, any contractors, or other external agencies.
- C. Los Alamos County shall serve as the fiscal agent for any funding procured by the Los Alamos County DWI Program and shall administer any contracts awarded to or by the Los Alamos County DWI Program.

# Los Alamos County DWI Program

## Services Provided

The Los Alamos County DWI Program receives funding for implementing evidence-based strategies funded by the Local DWI (LDWI), New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) local distribution funds.

The Los Alamos County DWI Program administers programs and services that are designed to reduce alcohol use/misuse among youth and adults including binge drinking, DWI, alcohol related motor vehicle crashes and crash deaths, and the number of alcohol related fatalities throughout the County. The Los Alamos County DWI program's mission is to prevent and reduce the incidence of DWI, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, alcohol-related domestic violence, and underage drinking in Los Alamos County.

Los Alamos County Commission, the County DWI Planning Council, and the Joint Task Force serve as planning and advisory bodies. Collaboration with law enforcement, government, agencies, youth, and other community members is paramount to the success of strategies implemented by the County DWI Program. The following are program components initiated at Los Alamos County DWI Program.

### **Program Components:**

- Community Wellness and Outreach: Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention and Public Education and Information

Evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs, practices, policies, procedures, and activities are implemented throughout Los Alamos County for children, youth, and families.

Collaboration and coordination with other organizations and agencies to address the risk and protective factors within Los Alamos County help leverage resources and services. The intent is to increase resiliency, health, and safety for our youth and entire community.

Assessment and implementation of activities that will increase public knowledge about programs, goals, and the DWI program and partners accomplishments.

- Community Wellness and Outreach: Enforcement - Joint Tasks Force

Local law enforcement agencies implement enforcement efforts including Checkpoints, Underage Drinking Party Patrols, Compliance Checks, and Saturation Patrols. Additionally, grant funding, if available, may provide valuable equipment and training used in the detection, documentation, and prosecution of DWI, Underage Drinking, Sales to Minors, Social Host and/or providing alcohol to Minors.

- Alternative Sentencing: Screening of DWI Offenders

Individuals convicted of DWI in Los Alamos County are referred to the Los Alamos County DWI Program for the completion of the state-mandated alcohol/drug screening (Impaired Driving Assessment (IDA). Presiding Judge will receive all documentation necessary to track client through his/her sentencing.

- Alternative Sentencing: Compliance Monitoring

Compliance Monitoring Program (MCMP) offers supervised probation services for those convicted of DWI offenses, alcohol-involved Domestic Violence offenses, and other alcohol-involved Misdemeanor offenses. Random drug and alcohol testing is required as part of supervised probation and the DWI Compliance Officers ensure that offenders comply fully with all court-ordered mandates and report any violations to the referring Judge for probation revocation and/or further disposition.

- Community Wellness and Outreach: Coordination/Planning and Evaluation

Coordinates all the programs listed, works with DWI Planning Council's guidance for program planning, and is responsible for oversight and evaluation of all components.

- Treatment: Treatment of DWI Offenders

The DWI Program offers support for outpatient treatment and jail-based services for clients who have a DWI or an alcohol-related conviction. RAC STOP is contracted to provide educational sessions (Living in Balance and SMART Recovery), individual therapy, development of treatment plans, client assessments, and/or group therapy. This component also supports preventative treatment services and education for community members.

## Political/Legal, Economic, Social, Technology/Trends Analysis Trends and Implications

### Political

### Legal

#### *Trends and Implications:*

- State: Lack of government/Legislative support.
- Lack of small housing places for the homeless.
- Passage of policy that supports the initiatives (State).
- No “buy in” for open drinking policy.
- Need to further environmental strategies.
- Don’t know what the county can do when the state fails to support program initiatives.
- Don’t know how to address political and legal needs.
- DWI laws in the County are stricter than state laws (mandates).
- Big name politicians (who are elected) sometimes don’t assemble behind and support big issues regarding substance use.
- DWI laws/sanctions are not caught up with marijuana use.
- Blood tests are taking longer for THC – lab work lagging behind causing case dismissals.

## Economic

### ***Trends and Implications:***

- Community Norms: acceptance of alcohol use.
- Funding threats to the primary employer for the County and surrounding areas, LANL There is fear that there may be a reduction in force. Clearance concerns are also kept secret (security/privacy).
- The perception that everyone works at LANL.
- Lack of affordable housing (shortage and cost issues).
- Medium income for those not working at LANL, i.e., school personnel, nonprofit, service jobs, etc.
- Need to draw from region for services – commuting to work.
- Population doubles in size. 18% of children attending schools in Los Alamos are non-resident.
- Lack of affordable activities, not alcohol related.
- Limited services for youth.
- Limited services for aftercare and reintegration particularly for youth (IOM Model).
- Resources are minimal.

## Social

### ***Trends and Implications:***

- Distortion of culture and values – drinking is not a cultural norm.
- No precautions and low perception of being caught and/or convicted of a DWI.
- Low social and emotional intelligence.
- Young people left alone at home (may be considered to be work related).
- Easy access to alcohol and Marijuana.
- High stress.
- Violence rates are very high.
- Suicide rates are very high.
- There is a great amount of social isolation-reaching out for help is difficult.
- Youth spend a lot of time online and believe everything they read.
- Minimization of behavior, social, and mental health issues.
- Homeless individuals are targets and considered a burden to society.
- Young adult population – inherited since the town was closed years ago.
- Racial discrimination – ethnicity Hispanic population. People cannot communicate due to language barrier.
- Single parent families.
- The Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) teased out results of race.

## Trends/Patterns

### Technology

#### ***Trends and Implications:***

- Too much technology at a young age (I Pad kids). Children are exposed to electronic devices at an early age. Many get I Pads and Cell Phones early in life (some 2<sup>nd</sup> birth date).
- 13<sup>th</sup> in the Nation for scientific and engineering electronics.
- A bill was passed in NM where cell phones are banned for children and youth in schools but unsure of its enforcement.
- Can be a positive because youth can learn about current events, complete research products, learn new ideas/things, share ideas, enhance connectivity, can have positive impact on social wellbeing, self-rated health, and mental health, multifaceted impact on society, education, individuals through facebook, Snapchat, Tic Tok, Instagram, and other social media avenues.
- Social media can also have a negative consequence such as receiving fake news, negative influences, serve as a distraction, may disrupt sleep, exposes them to bullying, rumor spreading, unrealistic views of other people's lives, peer pressure, visiting prohibited sites, and increase anxiety, depression, self-harm and even suicidal thoughts (Teen and Teen Health Article).
- Substance use can be glorified.
- Lack of knowledge about the harmful consequences of social media.
- Minimal text savvy parents that don't know how to monitor content.
- Technology can serve as a way to connect to people who combat isolation.
- Crisis line is available.
- Quick and supportive Aps for everything.
- Online Schooling.
- Strong internet.
- Easy access to technology at the local library.

## Strengths, Weakness/Barriers, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

### Strengths:

- \*Diversity of Planning Council – Includes sectors important for the work.
- \*The IOM (Collectively) is being followed i.e., Evidence-based curriculums/programs in 6 schools (Girls Circle, One Circle, Boys and Young Men’s Council, Life Skills, etc.), early intervention initiatives, identification and referral, treatment, follow up, etc.
- \*Los Alamos is a small community (can be a plus or a negative).
- \*LANL has their teeth on employees – resources to help them. They provide services immediately (drug test, counseling, courts – post conviction. They are on top of the situation on Day 1.
- \* Economics are good (for the most part, there is high income).



### **Weaknesses/Barriers:**

- \* Liquor industry not at the table.
- \*Smoke shops not at the table.
- \*Liaison Council member lacking.
- \*Acceptance of substance use – cultural distortion when people think it is a cultural norm.
- \*Screening – Showing that mental issues and substance use has a stigma attached to it.
- \*Lack of hope and self-seeking skills.
- \* Lack of knowledge and awareness. People are in deep crisis before they seek help.
- \*The city shuts down after 5:00 PM except liquor stores and/or bars.
- \*Lack of activities for youth and adults. Substance use at all events.
- .
- \*Limited transportation – buses don't run on weekends. Time frame: 6:00 AM. Prescheduled rides only if it is after 6:00 PM.
- \*No independent counselors serving in the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council.
- \*Many serving on the DWI Planning Council are “contractors” and are paid to be a part of the circle.
- \*Access to data from police or magistrate court is often difficult.
- \*LAPD must attend Quarterly LDWI meetings but often don't.
- \*The Bylaw's must to be re-examined to ensure that they still apply.
- \*Formality of meetings makes it difficult to be genuine.
- \*Need to be working on Sub-Committees. The Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council should move from just being an advisory group to a working group.

### Opportunities:

- \*Increase in youth involvement in community events and planning.
- \*Increase community awareness about the risk and legal consequences of breaking alcohol laws and risks of substance use.
- \*Develop areas where there is imbalance. Opportunity to fill in the gaps (IOM Model areas).
- \*Baseline data – know who can support the program and the Planning Council – fill in the gaps.
- \*Explore how County funds can be used to support current efforts.
- \*Resource development (areas for sustainability)
- \*Monthly messaging – partner with Sylvia and Prevention Specialist.
- \*More collaboration with community partners.
- \*Media connections (online, banners, social media, boom town online, school events, e-mails, flyers, community boards, e-mail list serves, businesses, etc.).
- \*LANL use of the internal list (communication – if possible).

### Threats:

- \*LDWI funds decreasing.
- \*Community attitude – a sense in the community that it doesn't matter.
- \*Substance use, mental health issues, and behavior associated with violence issues are not always a priority.
- \*Turnover of Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinators -16 different individuals within the past few years). No consistency.
- \*No strategic plan to follow, to guide, work.
- \*Lack of leadership in many areas.
- \*Distribution dollars (\$) – exist but are not always considered a priority.
- \*DWI work overwhelming. The department does not give the work any weight. There is an insane amount of work without support. Courts take over the DWI Program.
- \*Economic stress around LANL existence.
- \*Global threats: politically/socially particularly after Covid. There is a lot of emotional stress.

Program staff and the evaluation team reviewed the strategies currently being implemented by this grant, reviewed grant requirements, and determined what the grant identifies as non-negotiables activities for funding in FY26. The **PEST** and **SWOT** analysis were considered for looking at other possible strategies that his funding may support. The following outlines the prioritization process and the Strategic Plan in its completion.

## **Review of Initiatives/Activities Required By The Grant**

The following Matrix's outline the completed strategic Plan. Goals, objectives, indicators, and strategies are identified for each priority. Deadlines, person(s) responsible for each activity and desired outcomes are also identified.

### **Non-Negotiable and Part of the Scope of Work with DFA/LDWI:**

- Information Dissemination
- Direct Service Initiatives/Prevention Education
- Community-based Processes
- Data Reporting
- Alcohol and Drug Awareness
- Collaboration and Coordination
- Alternative Activities
- Environmental Strategies
- Enforcement
- Treatment: Outpatient, Jail-based Treatment, and Preventative Treatment
- Screening
- Compliance Monitoring/Tracking
- Evaluation
- Marketing and Promotion
- Marketing, Promotion and Education with government, politicians, and the community at large.

## **Priorities Identified Through The Strategic Planning Process**

- Binge Drinking Is A Problem
- Alcohol-Related Issues
- Mental Health Issues
- Behaviors Associated With Violence Problems
- Need For Coping Skills
- Easy Access to Alcohol/Marijuana
- Needed Awareness Regarding Risk of Harm and Legal Consequences for Breaking Alcohol Laws
- Needed Awareness of Services Provided By the Los Alamos County DWI Program
- Evaluation Measurement for Effectiveness
- Resource Development
- Marketing/Promotion
- Environmental Policies
- Media Campaign(s) To Inform Community
- Prevention Messaging
- Health Fairs, Community Events, Information Dissemination
- Alternative Activities

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

<b>Priority: Evidence-Based Programs (Direct Service).</b>			
<b>Goal 1:</b> To implement evidence-based curriculum and prevention activities with youth residing in Los Alamos County resulting in the reduction of binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI.			
<b>Goal 1. Objective 1:</b> Through the implementation of evidence-based education including the implementation of an evidence-based curriculum, increase the development of positive life skills, decrease risk factors for DWI and/or other alcohol-related outcomes which can result in a 5% reduction in underage drinking, binge drinking, DWI, and other problem adolescent behaviors among youth participating in the evidence-based programs by June 30, 2029.			
<b>Process Indicator(s)/Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YRRS Data (Middle School and High School)</li> <li>• Resiliency Survey (SFS Resiliency Survey)</li> <li>• Number of youths completing programs</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes Evaluation Tool: Youth Resiliency Survey and YRRS</b>
1. Implement Prevention Education.  2. Implement Evidence-based curriculum/program at middle school and high school (age specific).  3. Implement Drug Awareness Including Information Dissemination  4. Implement Drivers Ed Alcohol Awareness Lesson.  5. Implement SMART Recovery sessions.  6. Implement Life Skills sessions (Growing Your Mind) with middle school and high school students.  7. Implement DARE sessions with the elementary school students.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Los Alamos DWI County Contractor(s)  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	On-Going by the end of each Fiscal Year	<b>See 2025 Needs Assessment To Determine Baseline Data:</b>  <b>Short Term:</b> Increase resiliency/protective factors, social support, (cooperation and communication, self-efficacy, empathy, problem solving, self-awareness, and goals and aspirations) and increase academic success by 5% by June 30, 2026-2029.  <b>Long Term:</b> Reduce substance use/abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy, behaviors associated with violence, mental health indicators such as suicidal ideation, school suspension, and other risky behaviors among youth participating in evidence-based programs by June 30, 2029.

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority: Evidence-based Programs, Practices, and Policies			
<b>Goal 1:</b> To implement evidence-based curriculum and prevention activities with youth residing in Los Alamos County resulting in the reduction of binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI.			
<b>Goal 1. Objective 2:</b> Through the implementation of evidence-based practices and activities including alternative activities and information dissemination increase community safety, awareness, and knowledge regarding the risk of alcohol and other ATOD use, build awareness of mental, emotional, and behavioral health, reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors, and increase knowledge and awareness of available prevention programs and services by June 2029.			
<b>Indicator(s)/Measures: SARA and Other Documentation Forms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of information dissemination initiatives targeting youth</li> <li>• Youth demographics</li> <li>• YRRS Data (Middle School and High School)</li> <li>• Number of youths completing programs</li> </ul>			
Activities	Person(s) Responsible	Date	Desired Outcomes Evaluation Tool: Youth Resiliency Survey and YRRS
1. Fund partnering agencies to host alternative activities (i.e., Moving Senior Appreciation Day, HAWK Hangout (middle school), After Prom Event, Dances, etc.).  2. Collaborate with other agencies on communitywide events that support healthy living/healthy communities.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Los Alamos DWI County Contractor(s)  Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	On-Going by the end of each Fiscal Year	<b>See 2025 Needs Assessment To Determine Baseline Data:</b>  <b>Short Term:</b> Increase resiliency/protective factors, social support, (cooperation and communication, self-efficacy, empathy, problem solving, self-awareness, and goals and aspirations) and increase academic success by 5% by June 30, 2026-2029.  <b>Long Term:</b> Reduce substance use/abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy, behaviors associated with violence, mental health indicators such as suicidal ideation, school suspension, and other risky behaviors among youth participating in evidence-based programs by 5% by June 30, 2026.

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

<b>Priority: Collaboration and Coordination, and Community-Based Process.</b>			
<b>Goal 1:</b> To implement evidence-based curriculum and prevention activities with youth residing in Los Alamos County resulting in the reduction of binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI.			
<b>Goal 1. Objective 3:</b> Increase collaboration and coordination with other organizations and agencies to implement community-based process strategies that will result in the leveraging of services, access to health service, and to increase the support of several shared communitywide initiatives and projects in Los Alamos County by June 2029.			
<b>Indicator(s)/Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of participating community members, organizations, and agencies</li> <li>• Collaborative relationships and roles</li> <li>• Documentation of shared vision and goals, shared leadership development, decision making processes, communication processes, training, and skill building</li> <li>• Number and types of shared resources</li> </ul>			
Activities	Person(s) Responsible	Date	Desired Outcomes
1. Meet and participate in the DWI Planning Council on designated dates for community planning, organizing, and networking.  2. Collaborate with and participate in the Los Alamos County Health Council on designated dates for sharing resources, identifying collaborative efforts, identifying community needs, examining data assessments and needs, and determining mobilization of prevention activities.  3. Meet and participate with other community members, organizations, and agencies.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	On-Going by the end of each Fiscal Year	<b>Long Term:</b> Coalitions and community increased awareness and knowledge about working collaboratively to address the risk of alcohol misuse and involving community leaders in this process.  Coalition's increased communication regarding the misuse of alcohol misuse.  Coalition's increased awareness and knowledge about the importance of educating the community about alcohol misuse.  Coalition awareness regarding the needs that need to be addressed by Los Alamos County DWI Program and its collaborative partners (Needs Assessment).



## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

<b>Priority: Sustainability: Marketing and Promotion</b>			
<b>Goal 1:</b> To implement evidence-based curriculum and prevention activities with youth residing in Los Alamos County resulting in the reduction of binge drinking, underage drinking, and DWI.			
<b>Goal 1. Objective. 4:</b> Assess and increase public knowledge about programs, goals, Los Alamos County DWI Program, and partner's accomplishments by June 2029.			
<b>Indicator(s)/Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of PSA's, newsletters, presentations, and events where Los Alamos County DWI Program was advertised or promoted.</li> <li>• Number of new community leaders and community members who participate in Los Alamos County DWI Program initiatives.</li> <li>• The number of youths who participate in the program following media campaign initiatives.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>
1. Create presentations for government(s) and businesses. 2. Connect Arrange personal visits with local community leaders. 3. Utilize existing tools/Resources. 4. Access local media/promotion. 5. Update brochures, Handouts, and website. 6. Utilize social media to promote events and groups. 7. Develop testimonials from program participants.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator  Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	On-Going	<b>Short Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase general knowledge of Los Alamos County DWI Program and the services provided by community partners.</li> <li>• Increase in the Agency's Positive Visibility.</li> </ul> <b>Long Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of youths utilizing the services provided by Los Alamos County DWI Program and the collaborative partners.</li> <li>• Increase in protective factors and decrease in risk factors in youth who utilize the services.</li> </ul>

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority: Enforcement of Alcohol Related Laws and Environmental			
<b>Goal 2:</b> Provide compliance monitoring/tracking and evidence-based treatment practices to DWI offenders referred to the Los Alamos County DWI Program by the courts and/or self-referrals.			
<b>Goal 2. Objective 1:</b> Increase perceived risk of legal consequences for breaking alcohol-related laws by youth and adults by 3% by June 2029 by highly publicizing saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints, and SIU activities (compliance checks and shoulder taps) and by implementing communitywide media campaigns.			
Indicator(s)/Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMCS Survey</li> <li>• NM Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile</li> <li>• NM Transportation Department DWI Profile Report/UNM</li> <li>• Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)</li> </ul>			
Activities	Person(s) Responsible	Date	Desired Outcomes
1. Collaborate with law enforcement in the delivery of saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints, and SIU activities.  2. Conduct media activities, prevention education and awareness campaigns focusing on the risk and legal consequences of breaking alcohol laws.  3. Implement the New Mexico Community Survey (NMCS) to assess data related to alcohol-related outcomes.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Los Alamos DWI County Contractors  Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	NMCS: February 2026 – June 2026  NM Epidemiology Profile: Ongoing Updated Yearly  NM DOT: Ongoing – Updated Yearly	<b>See 2025 Needs Assessment To Determine Baseline Data except NMCS:</b>  <b>Short Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop baseline for the perception of the risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol laws (NMCS).</li> <li>• Number of shoulder taps, DWI saturation patrols, checkpoints, and underage drinking enforcement efforts.</li> <li>• Increase knowledge regarding the enforcement of alcohol-related laws in the County.</li> </ul> <b>Long Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the perception of risk and legal consequences for breaking alcohol laws by 5% by 2029.</li> <li>• Decrease the alcohol use and alcohol-related consequences (NM Epidemiology Profile).</li> </ul>

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority: Compliance and Treatment			
<b>Goal 2:</b> Provide compliance monitoring/tracking and evidence-based treatment practices to DWI offenders referred to the Los Alamos County DWI Program by the courts and/or self-referrals.			
<b>Goal 2. Objective 2:</b> Increase the number of DWI Offender referrals to appropriate treatment services by 100.0%, decrease the number of DWI offender recidivism, and improve the client's social, occupational, and psychological functioning by June 30, 2029.			
<b>Goal 2. Objective 3:</b> Reduce alcohol related death rate consequences, increase DWI arrests and citations, and decrease the number of DWI repeat offenders in Los Alamos County by June 30, 2029.			
<b>Indicator(s)/Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance and Treatment Exit Interview</li> <li>• NM Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile</li> <li>• NMCS</li> <li>• NM Transportation Department Report/DWI Report/UNM</li> <li>• Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)</li> </ul>			
Activities	Person(s) Responsible	Date	Desired Outcomes
1. Complete assessments (IDA) and treatment plans for clients who have been arrested for drinking and driving and who have been referred to the Los Alamos DWI Program by the courts.  2. Provide compliance monitoring for DWI clients referred to the Los Alamos DWI Program.  3. Complete treatment for clients who have been assessed as needing these services.  4. Conduct and assess Compliance and Treatment Exit Interviews.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Treatment Providers (Contractors)  Evaluator: For developing baseline data, assessing programs, and needs assessment	NMCS: February 2026 – June 2026  NM Epidemiology Profile: Ongoing and Updated Yearly  NM DOT: Ongoing – Updated Yearly  Compliance and Exit Interviews: Following each client's exit from the program. Completion of sanction requirements.	<b>See 2025 Needs Assessment To Determine Baseline Data except NMCS:</b>  <b>Short Term:</b> # Client self-referrals and # DWI court appointed referrals. Treatment progress notes – treatment and attendance (dosage)  DWI Exit Interview survey that measures satisfaction of program services and self-reported attitudes, perception, client success and change in their behavior because of treatment. Clients being served and # clients successfully

			<p>completing treatment plans and/or program(s) including aftercare.</p> <p># Clients returning for 2<sup>nd</sup> or more offense (recidivism-NM Transportation Department and DWI Report).</p> <p># of Alcohol related arrests (NM Transportation Department and DWI Report).</p> <p># of alcohol convictions and dismissals (AOC Report) and program files.</p> <p><b>Long Term:</b> Reduction in DWI, crashes, and fatalities – NM Transportation Department and DWI Report.</p> <p>Reduce recurrence of DWI offences (recidivism) by 5% by June 2026.</p>
--	--	--	--

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY DWI PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN: RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

<b>Priority: Resource Development</b>			
<b>Goal 3:</b> Research and develop new resources to sustain programs beyond current funding.			
<b>Goal 3. Objective 1:</b> Identify sustainable long-term diverse resources and funding resources to expand current services and to strengthen and support program initiatives through a number of years.			
<b>Indicator(s)/Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of new funding</li> <li>• Increase in funding to continue current services and to create new and innovative approaches.</li> <li>• Life beyond current funding</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>
1. Thoroughly understand existing funding and communicate this between Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council and the County.  2. Identify additional government dollars.  3. Develop Sustainability Plan. Plan fundraising activities.  4. Maximize funding through collaboration.  5. Examine/investigate possible funding through the county.	Los Alamos County DWI Program Coordinator (Oversite)  Los Alamos DWI County Contractors  Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council	On-going	<b>Short Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of new funding.</li> </ul> <b>Long Term:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased resources/funding.</li> </ul>

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Complete Strategic Plan Report.
- Clean/Update/Revise Needs Assessment.
- Research strategies other programs are doing such as training, media campaigns, peer support and/or peer leadership programs, Mentorship Programs (Power of Influence in Rio Arriba County), social media, messaging, media campaigns.
- Examine sustainability strategies.
- Acquire successful evaluation strategies/models.
- Develop Evaluation Plan.
- Develop Logic Model.
- Review and Revise Strategic Plan yearly.
- Review the Strategic Plan with Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council membership and solicit their feedback.
- Make recommended changes to the Strategic Plan.
- Explore the possibility of creating working committees within the Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council.
- Examine the possibility of participating in the NMCS.

# APPENDICES

A. Local _____ County DWI Planning Council	
B. 2025 _____ County Needs Assessment Summary	
C. 2025 _____ County JJC Strategic Plan Agenda	

**Appendix A: Los Alamos County DWI Planning  
Council Membership List**



## **Appendix B: 2026 Los Alamos County DWI Program Needs Assessment**

## **Appendix C: Strategic Planning Agenda**