

# WELCOME TO DAY 2!

# 2026 RAI SYMPOSIUM

Community Recovery in Action:  
Honoring Progress



FRIDAY MAY 08, 2026

RIVERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER



# BINGO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write your name on this sheet.
2. Visit each exhibitor and have them sign their square.
3. Once all squares are filled, drop your completed sheet into the RAI Bucket.
4. You'll be entered into the Day 2 Samsung Galaxy Tablet A11+
5. Must be present to win.


1. Visit the exhibitors
2. Get all of their signatures
3. Then enter for your chance to WIN!



# Continuing Education Credits!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE EVALUATIONS TO RECEIVE CREDIT

**FREE**

Friday, May 8, 2026					
Session	NC APPB (SS)	NC State Bar (CLE)	NAADAC (CE)	Contact Hours	Initial session attendance
Keynote Speaker # 2 - Dr. John Kelly: "Maintaining Vigilance and Building Resilience: How Communities Mobilize Successful Change"		1			
Panel #2: "From Vigilance to Action: How Communities Sustain Recovery and Public Safety" Facilitator: David Whitesock // Panelists: Dr. John Kelly, Jeff Hill, Ernie Lee, Chris Budnick	2	1	2		
Table work Stephanie Thornton: Recovery Ecosystem	1	1	1		
Panel #3: "Once the Fire Is Out: Flourishing in Addiction Recovery" Facilitator: Chris Budnick, // Panelists: Bill Stauffer, Jason Schwartz, Trina Fullard	1	0	1		
<b>Total available</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Total for DAY 2 you are requesting</b>					



← Scan QR Code to complete Day 2 Evaluation



Day 2 Evaluation

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CLE**

**9  
SS**

**7  
CLE**



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Developmental Disabilities  
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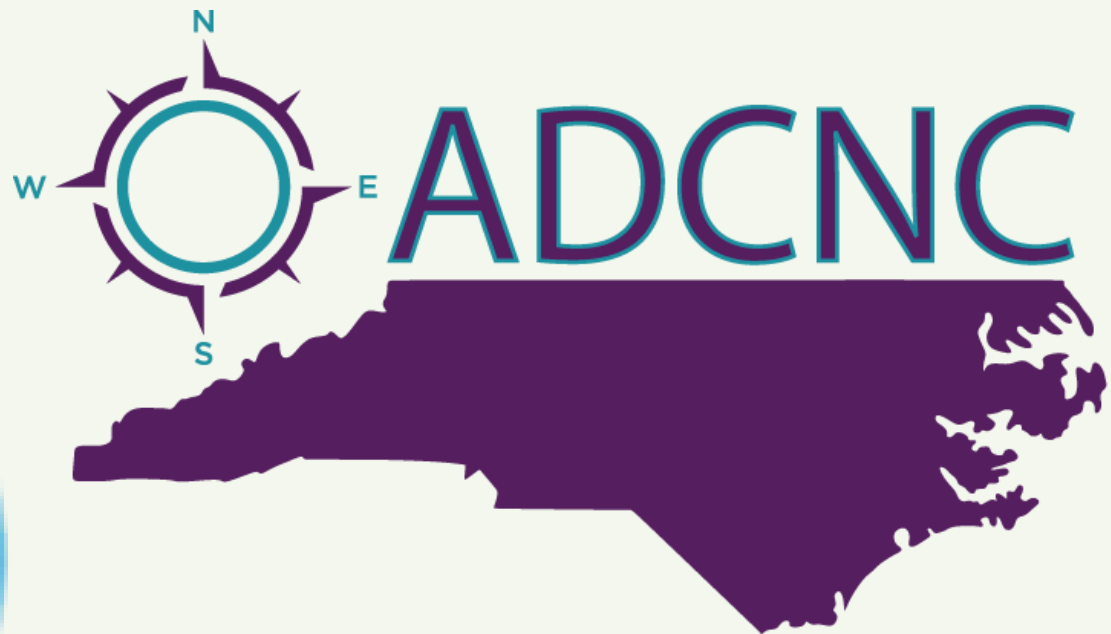
THE ASSOCIATION FOR ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED AND PARTIALLY FUNDED BY  
THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF  
MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES.

# THANK YOU TO OUR NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORS



# THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS

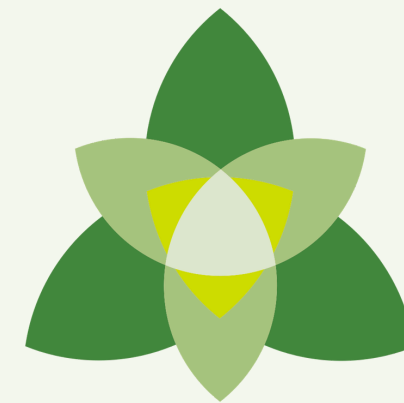


ADCNC

Alcohol / Drug Council  
of North Carolina



BRYNN MARR  
HOSPITAL



Trillium

HEALTH RESOURCES

Transforming Lives. Building Community Well-Being.

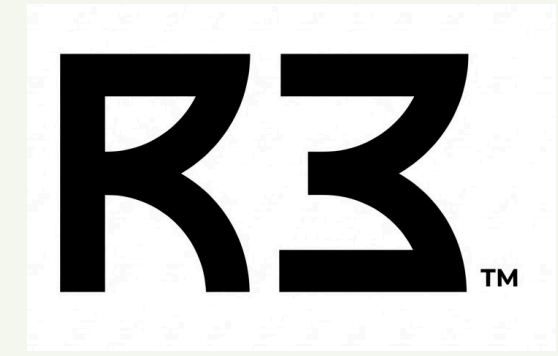
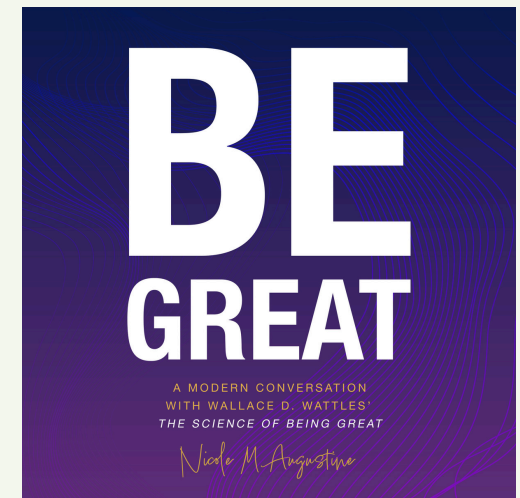
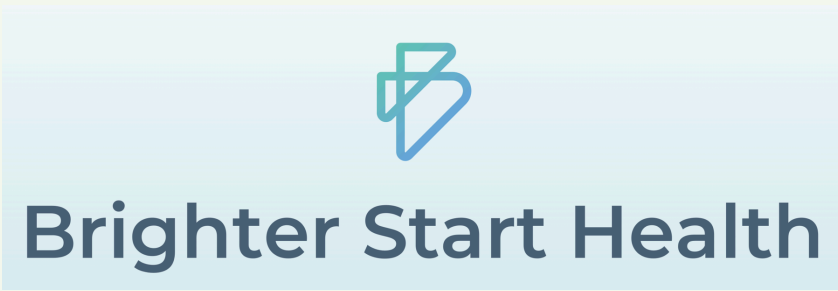
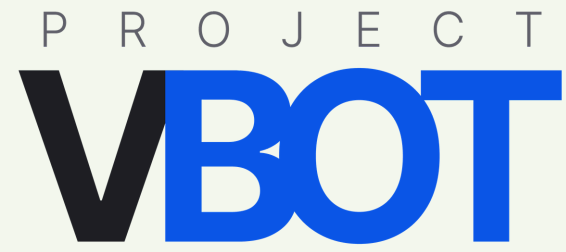


GREENSBORO ABC



The  
Harold H. Bate  
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# THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS



# DAY 2 AGENDA



- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8 - 9 AM         | Registration & Connecting with Exhibitors   |
| 9 - 9:10 AM      | Welcome: Charles Blackwood, Orange County Sheriff   |
| 9:10 - 10 AM     | Keynote: Dr. John Kelly, “Maintaining Vigilance and Building Resilience: How Communities Mobilize Successful Change”  |
| 10 - 10:15 AM    | Networking Break  |
| 10:15 - 11:15 AM | Panel #2: “From Vigilance to Action: How Communities Sustain Recovery and Public Safety”, Dr. John Kelly, Jeff Hill, Ernie Lee, Chris Budnick   |
| 11:15 - 12:10 PM | Tablework Activity & Discussion: Recovery Ecosystems, Stephanie Thornton  |
| 12:10 - 1 PM     | Lunch - Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Bean, Hush Puppies, Banana Pudding   |
| 1 - 2:20 PM      | Short Talk by Jason Schwartz followed by Panel Discussion: “Once the Fire is Out: Flourishing in Addiction Recovery” Panelists: Jason Schwartz, Bill Stauffer, Trina Fullard // Panel Facilitated By: Chris Budnick |
| 2:20 - 3:15 PM   | 5 ways AI will make your job easier, facilitated by, Tara Kunkel + Kristina Bryant - Rulo Strategies  |
| 3:15 - 3:20 PM   | Raffle: Win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet A11+!!! Must be present to win.   |
| 3:20 - 3:30 PM   | Closing: Charles Blackwood, Orange County Sheriff   |

# DR. JOHN KELLY

*Elizabeth R. Spallin Professor of  
Psychiatry in Addiction Medicine,  
Harvard Medical School*

Dr. John F. Kelly is the Elizabeth R. Spallin Professor of Psychiatry in Addiction Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Founder and Director of the Recovery Research Institute at Massachusetts General Hospital. He also serves as Associate Director of the Center for Addiction Medicine and leads the Division of Addiction Treatment and Prevention across Mass General Brigham.

A nationally recognized leader in addiction science, Dr. Kelly is a former President of the American Psychological Association's Society of Addiction Psychology and current President of the American Board of Addiction Psychology. He has advised U.S. federal agencies, international governments, the United Nations, and the World Health Organization. With more than 250 publications, Dr. Kelly's work focuses on recovery pathways, behavior change, and reducing stigma—shaping how systems understand and support long-term recovery.



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



# **Dr. Kelly's Slides**

**Sponsor Spotlight:**  
**Networking Break Sponsor**



# Lets take a short networking break 10 - 10:15 AM



You don't want to miss what's coming up...

# PANEL #2: "FROM VIGILANCE TO ACTION: HOW COMMUNITIES SUSTAIN RECOVERY AND PUBLIC SAFETY"

*Facilitated by David Whitesock, Founder CommonlyWell*



**Dr. John Kelly**

Elizabeth R. Spallin Professor of  
Psychiatry in Addiction Medicine,  
Harvard Medical School

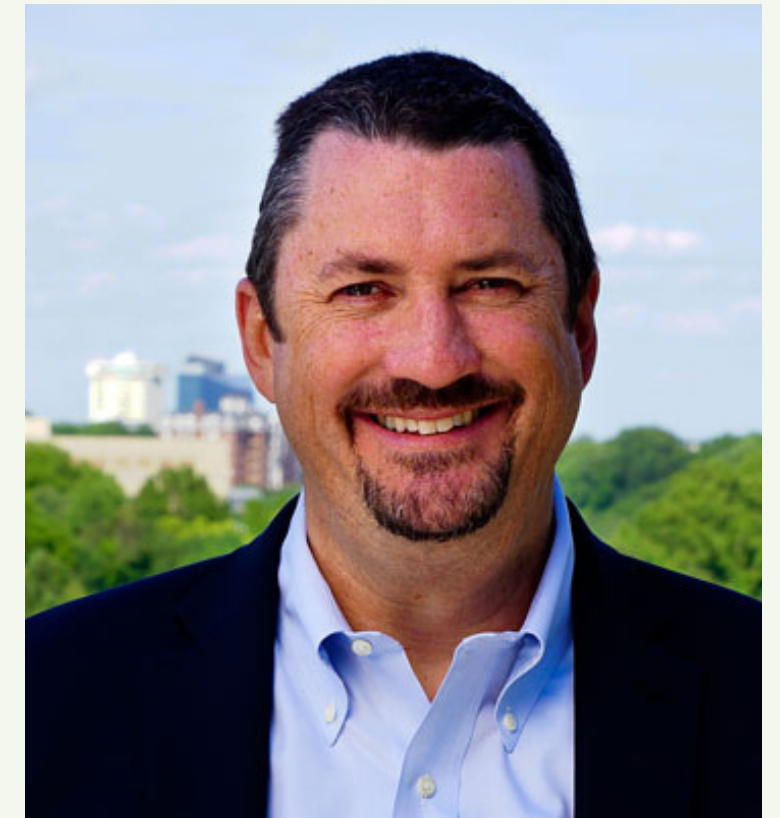


**Jeff Hill**

Chief Performance Officer, R3

**David McFadyen**

Licensed Attorney, Retired DA, Retired  
Major Craven County Sheriffs office,  
Admin Services, Carolina East Medical  
Center Security Advisor



**Chris Budnick**

Executive Director at Healing  
Transitions

# STEPHANNE THORNTON

***Clinical Director, West Virginia Judicial and Lawyer Assistance Program & owner of Transform Legal, a consultancy focused on mitigation, training, and sustainability***

Stephanne is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Master Addiction Counselor focusing on access to trauma and substance use disorder treatment to ensure the health, well-being, and sustainability of affected individuals. Recognizing the prevalent intersection of stress, substance use, and mental health conditions with some practitioners of the law and other helping professions, Stephanne believes in sharing social science insights and mindfulness practices in ways that empower people to grow, heal, and thrive.

Stephanne earned a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University Candler School of Theology in the Honors Program, and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Georgia. She has been clinically licensed as a social worker and addictions counselor since 2004 and additionally holds certificates as Certified Addiction Counselor Level III, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, and Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider. Stephanne's clinical training background is in trauma, and she is on the Trauma-Informed Care Network Speakers Bureau, presents on trauma, substance use, and self-care across the state and at national conferences, and serves on various boards and committees.



**SPEAKER**



A photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense forest. The road is dark grey with white double lines, curving from the bottom left towards the top right. The forest consists of many tall, thin trees with light-colored bark, possibly eucalyptus, and a thick canopy of green leaves. The ground is covered in brown fallen leaves. The overall scene is a natural, serene landscape.

# Building Infrastructure Across the Landscape: Recovery Ecosystems and Recovery Oriented Systems of Care

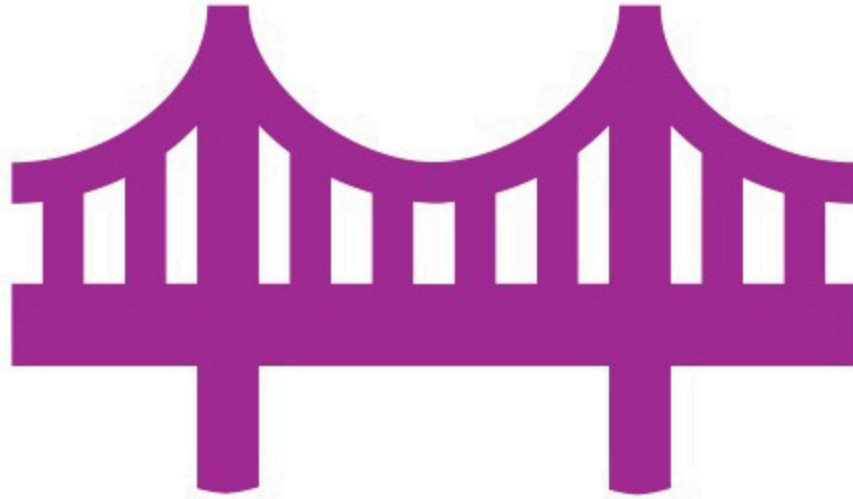
# Recovery Ecosystem



# Recovery-Oriented System of Care



# Integration



**Recovery-Oriented System of Care (infrastructure)**



**Recovery Ecosystem (landscape)**

# rei.norc.org

## Recovery Ecosystem Index Map



County / State

Counties

Urban / Rural

All

Filter by state:

All states

Add Map Context:

Map Overlays

Recovery Ecosystem Index Score  
1=strongest;  
5=weakest



Zoom



SEARCH LIST OF COUNTIES >

Reset Map

### BASE MAP

Recovery Ecosystem Index Scores

Recovery Ecosystem Index Indicators \*new\*

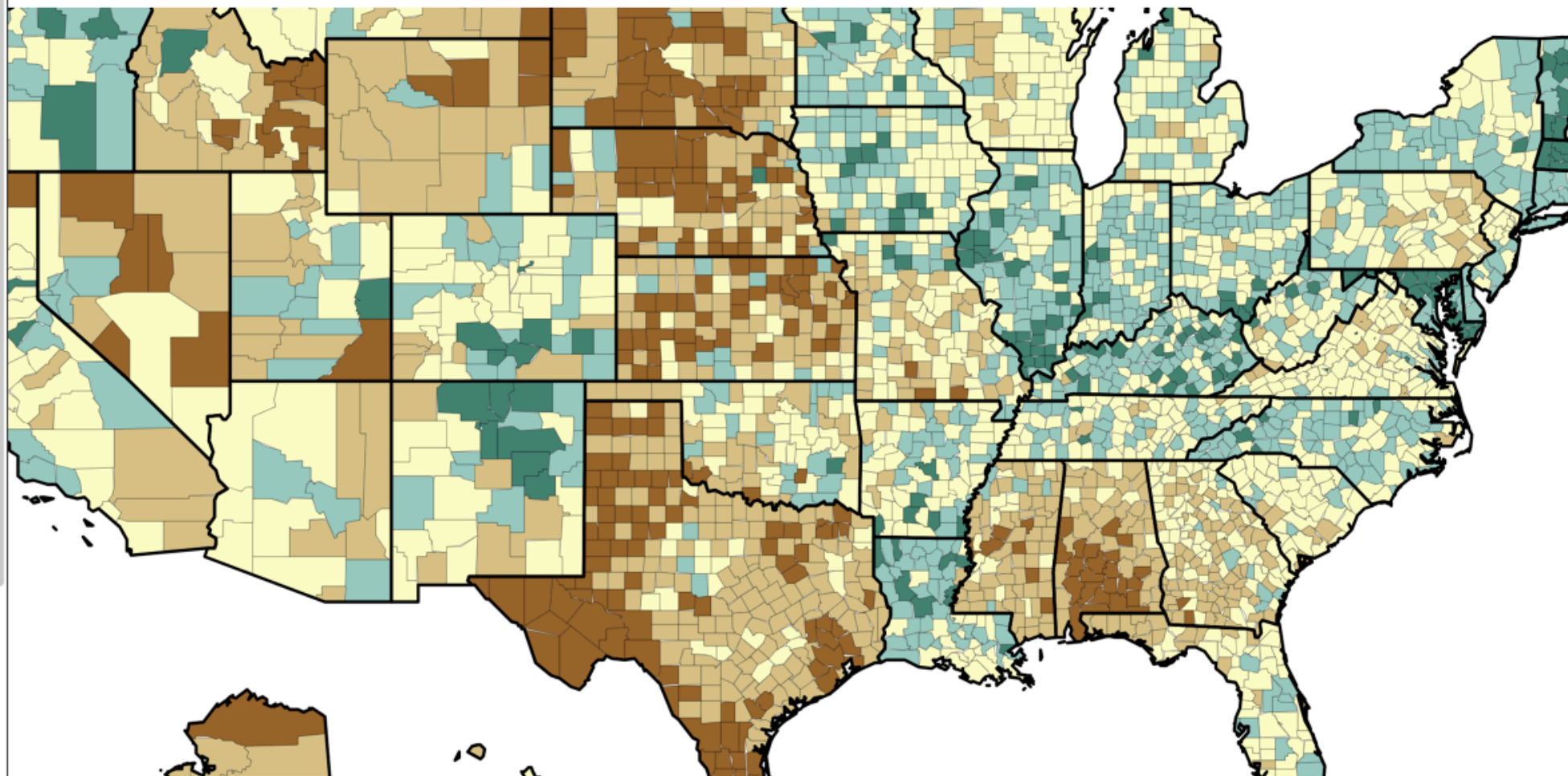
Drug Overdose Mortality

### OVERLAY

Recovery Ecosystem Index Scores

Recovery Ecosystem Index Indicators \*new\*

Drug Overdose Mortality



# At Your Tables:

- Where are you/where is your organization along the recovery ecosystem? (use multi-colored index cards to represent the different core components along the recovery ecosystem pathway)
- What real-world supports do you/does your organization provide that make ROSC effective? (write these down on your colored index card)
- How are you engaging the community through cross-sector collaboration to help someone initiate recovery, continue in recovery, and/or be sustained in recovery? (discuss at tables)

# LUNCH & NETWORKING



PLEASE RETURN BY 1:00 PM

# Once the Fire is Out: Flourishing in Addiction Recovery



**JASON  
SCHWARTZ**  
*Director of Social Work and Spiritual Care*



**BILL  
STAUFFER**  
*Executive Director, Pennsylvania Recovery  
Orgs Alliance*



**CHRIS  
BUDNICK**  
*Executive Director of Healing Transitions*

**SPEAKERS**



# Once the Fire is Out: Flourishing in Addiction Recovery

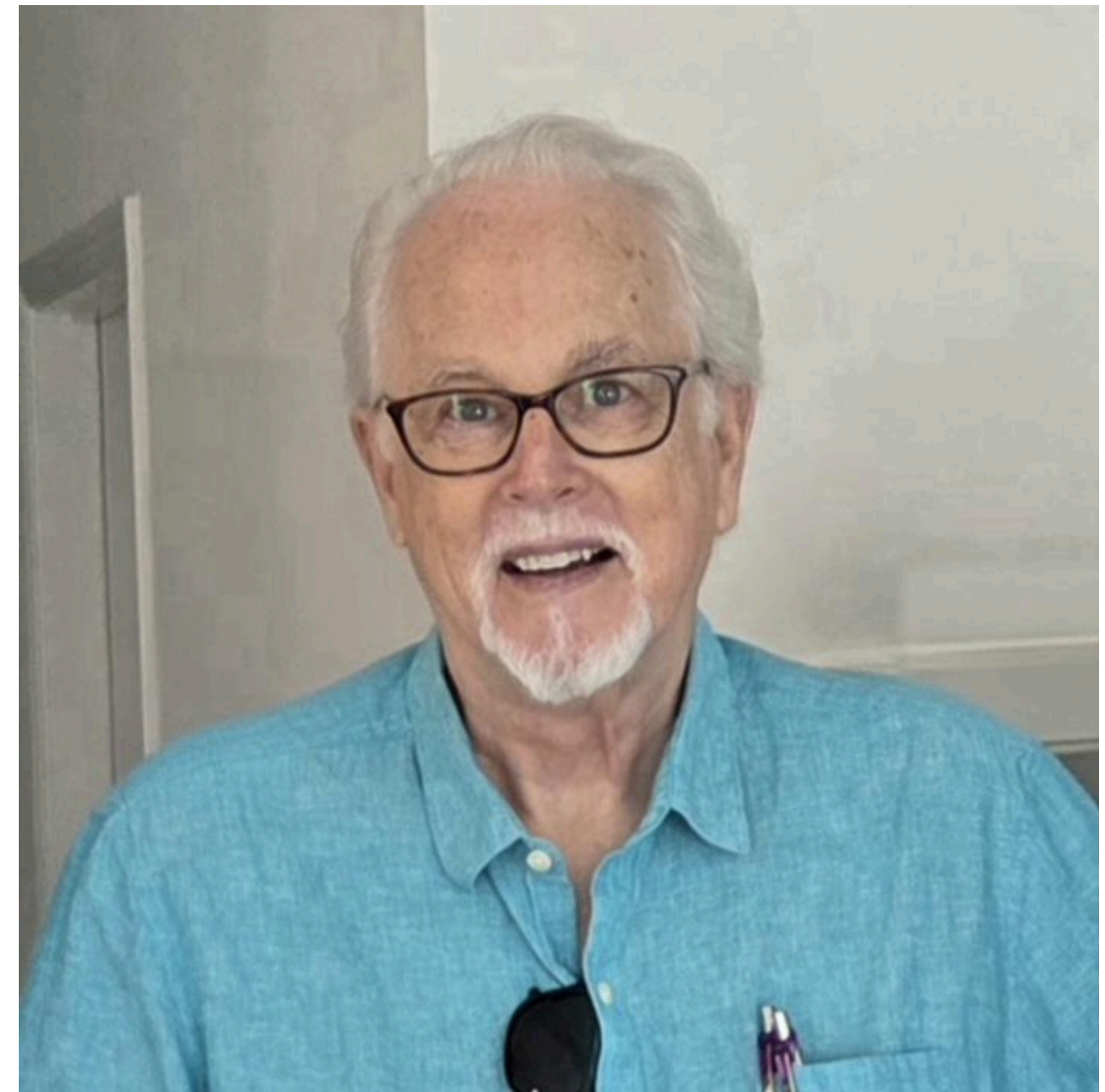
*Bill Stauffer | Chris Budnick | Jason Schwartz*

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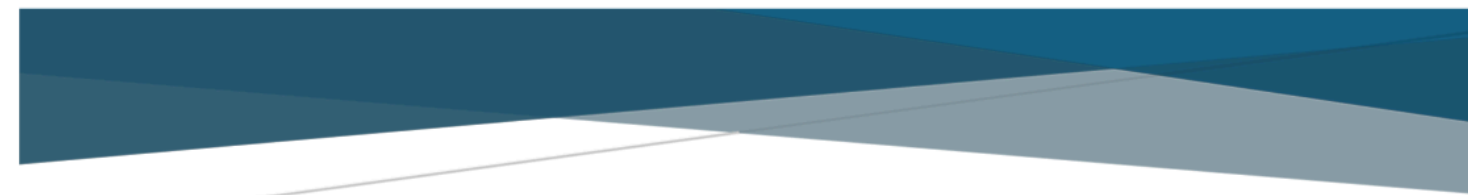
Based on: White, W.L. (2026). Post Traumatic Growth and Flourishing in Addiction Recovery: A Critical Review and Commentary. Chestnut Health Systems / Lighthouse Institute & Recovery Research Institute.

# William L. White

*Has worked in the addictions field since 1969 as a as a streetworker, counselor, clinical director, researcher and well-traveled trainer and consultant. He has authored or co-authored more than 400 articles, monographs, research reports and book chapters and 20 books. His is author of Slaying the Dragon – The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America.*



# Post Traumatic Growth and Flourishing in Addiction Recovery: A Critical Review and Commentary (2026)



**Post Traumatic Growth and  
Flourishing in Addiction Recovery:  
A Critical Review and Commentary**

**William L. White, M.A.**

A Chestnut Health Systems / Lighthouse Institute and  
Recovery Research Institute Monograph



*“As I approach my final contributions to the field, this singular topic (the idea of an amplified state of recovery) remained as unfinished business. What follows is a series of investigations, reflections, and unanswered questions on the potential and nature of flourishing within the prolonged experience of addiction recovery.”*

— White (2026), p. 1

Available at: [chestnut.org/li/william-white-library](https://chestnut.org/li/william-white-library)

# We've Set the Bar Too Low

*“The term recovery literally conveys the retrieval of lost health and functioning, whereas the concept of recovery flourishing suggests the possibility of achieving levels of health and functioning far greater than that which existed prior to the addiction and recovery experiences.”*

— White (2026), p. 11

## Old question

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*Did they stop using?*

## Better question

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*Are they stable and functioning?*

## Our question today

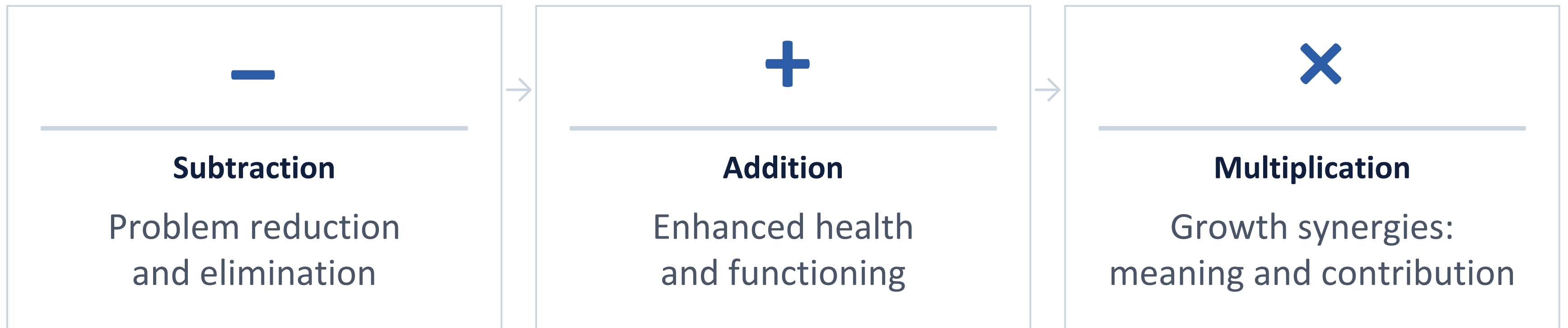
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*Are they flourishing — living a good life?*

# What Is Recovery Flourishing?

*“...an exceptional level of global (physical/cognitive/emotional/relational/spiritual) health, life meaning and purpose, and social/cultural contribution experienced within the constraints of one’s limitations and life circumstances.”*

— White (2026), p. 15



*"Better than well" — not just healed, but transformed*

# Is this a new concept?

*“Discussions of the potential for recovery flourishing and how it can best be achieved are **rare** in the clinical literature of addiction treatment but **prominent** in the literature of recovery mutual aid organizations.”*

— White (2026), p. 12

## Women For Sobriety

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“recognizing life’s priorities: emotional and spiritual growth, self-responsibility”

“living one’s best life—a lifelong journey of emotional and spiritual growth”

## SMART Recovery

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“leading a balanced life”

## Secular Organizations for Sobriety

---

“the good life”

## Recovery Dharma

---

“lifelong journey of growth and awakening”

## Wellbriety

---

“We will heal ourselves, we will heal our wounded relationships, we will heal our children, we will heal our nation.”

## 12 Step

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- “living sober” | “living clean”
- the “joy of living”
- “living life on life’s terms”
- “happy, joyous and free”
- “Are these extravagant promises? We think not.”
- “unlimited growth”
- a life “beyond our wildest dreams”

# Why Flourishing, Not Just Recovery?

*Three distinct arguments:*

01

## **Recovery looks backward. Flourishing asks what has not yet been achieved.**

"Recovery" literally means retrieval of what was lost. It is restorative in its orientation — stopping at subtraction and addition. Flourishing is generative: it asks not what can be returned but what becomes possible. White writes: "the concept of recovery flourishing suggests the possibility of achieving levels of health and functioning far greater than that which existed prior to the addiction and recovery experiences."

02

## **Adversity creates the conditions for exceptional growth — not in spite of addiction, but because of it.**

The self-reconstruction required by recovery — identity overhaul, existential reckoning, redirection of extraordinary survival skills — creates a depth of growth unreachable by easier paths. White: "not only is sustained flourishing possible in the aftermath of adversity, but it might only be possible as a response to adversity and struggle." The devotion, focus, and resourcefulness of addiction do not disappear in recovery. They can be redirected.

03

## **Without flourishing, recovery itself may be at risk.**

Languishing in recovery is not a neutral resting state — it is a risk condition. People who are drug-free but not growing are more vulnerable to the 'midlife crisis in recovery,' to exponential decay across life domains, to the pull of return. Flourishing is not an optional upgrade to recovery. It is part of what makes recovery durable. The question is not whether to aim higher — it is whether the field is designed to support what that requires.

# A Spectrum: From Suffering to Flourishing

<b>Suffering</b>	Progressive deterioration in global health; increased risk of self-harm
<b>Languishing</b>	Lost vitality, discontent, stagnation — drug-free but not yet free
<b>Functioning</b>	Health and social functioning comparable to others at a similar life stage
<b>Growing</b>	Progressive enhancement of physical, psychological, relational, and spiritual health
<b>Flourishing</b>	Peak global health, personal achievement, fulfillment, and social contribution

*Movement is possible in both directions*

# Drug-Free, But Not Yet Free

*SUD remission is necessary. It is not sufficient.*

---

“...people in SUD recovery can regress to a state of languishing (e.g., “dry drunk”)

a person can be drug free but not yet free.... What is needed in the face of such entrapment is a catalytic experience that can propel one to another level of recovery, a level of recovery flourishing.”

*White (2026), p. 33*

# Drug-Free, But Not Yet Free

## What keeps people stuck?

### **Primitive defenses persist**

Early recovery often relies on the same defenses that supported addiction — denial, black-and-white thinking, projection of blame — reframed but not yet replaced with mature coping.

### **Recovery capital remains low**

Without the internal and external resources to sustain growth — relationships, purpose, stability — people cannot move from repair to reconstruction.

### **Life events can pose risk**

Regression toward languishing may be triggered by key developmental shifts, e.g., new trauma/loss experiences, empty nest, divorce, career stagnation, retirement, relocation, etc.

### **Languishing can harden**

White describes a 'midlife crisis in recovery' around years four to five — growth plateaus, discontent deepens. Without response, this can accelerate toward clinical regression.

# Five Domains of Recovery Flourishing

## 1 Renewed Self

Deepened resolve, appreciation for life, and a profound sense of rebirth and new identity

## 2 Deeper Relationships

Enhanced empathy, tolerance, emotional expression, and connection with others

## 3 Personal Strength

Heightened awareness of previously unrecognized strengths and honest acceptance of limitations

## 4 Spiritual Depth

Enhanced spirituality — meaning, transcendence, serenity, and sense of the sacred

## 5 Optimistic Path

A new, forward-looking life trajectory grounded in hope, purpose, and meaningful contribution

# The Measurement Challenge

*“There has yet to be consensus on a definition of recovery to guide research on recovery and related strategies of problem resolution. The term flourishing joins recovery and other presently ‘fuzzy’ terms and concepts in the drug problems arena whose definitional boundaries continue to be contested.”*

— White (2026), p. 15

## What we have

30+ instruments measuring related constructs: wellbeing, quality of life, recovery capital, post-traumatic growth

The Post-Traumatic Growth Inventory (PTGI) — applicable with modification (McBurnie et al., 2023)

The PERMA Profiler — tested in SUD recovery with adaptations needed (Carlon, 2022)

Broad recovery capital scales that capture some dimensions of flourishing

## What we still need

A consensus definition precise enough to be measurable — and broad enough to be inclusive

Agreement on the benchmark: compared to pre-addiction self? Others in recovery? General population?

Validation of instruments across diverse populations, cultural contexts, and recovery pathways

Objective (not only self-report) measures of when someone enters and exits a state of flourishing

Source: White (2026), pp. 15–20; Table 1, pp. 16–17

# The Ecology of Community Flourishing

*"The individual, family and community are not separate; they are one.  
To injure one is to injure all; to heal one is to heal all."*

*The Red Road to Wellbriety  
(White Bison, 2002), p. 73*

## A nested ecology

*Flourishing is shaped by eight spaces — each of which can inhibit or promote it:*

- Home & family
- Neighborhood
- School & education
- Work & employment
- Leisure & recreation
- Faith communities
- Recovery community

## Recovery is contagious

*White poses an explicit research question: can flourishing be socially transmitted?*

- Best & Ivers (2021): "recovery contagion and growth" — flourishing spreads through social contact
- Jason et al. (2021): collective household recovery capital outpredicts individual capital
- "Recovery carriers" — people whose flourishing is contagious to those around them

## Replacement institutions

*New recovery spaces fill the gap when traditional connections erode:*

- Recovery residences & sober living
- Recovery high schools & collegiate programs
- Recovery community centers & cafes
- Workplace & faith-based programs
- Arts, sport, and adventure venues

# Recovery as Rebellion

*"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion." — Albert Camus*

For some historically marginalized communities recovery and recovery flourishing are not only personal achievements. They are acts of resistance: against oppression, against intergenerational trauma, against a system that has historically used addiction as a tool of subjugation and profited from it.

White describes three styles of rebellion: flourishing as defiant survival (living proof against low expectations); breaking the chain of intergenerational addiction; and cultural protest — recovery as an act of sovereignty and cultural revitalization. Each elevates recovery into something greater than the individual.

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*"To recover as an act of protest rests on the ideas of strike, boycott, confrontation, and cultural revolution — a simultaneous withdrawal of self from the addiction industrial complex and contributing to cultural revitalization." — White (2026), p. 57*

# What We Must Be Careful About

*Rigorous honesty is essential as this work develops.*

01

Don't set unrealistic expectations. For some individuals with severe, complex addiction histories, reaching a state of flourishing may be a prolonged and difficult process — and 'some semblance of normality' can itself be meaningful.

02

Avoid creating new hierarchies. Categorizing people by degree of flourishing risks intragroup stigma and a class structure within recovery communities. Many factors are beyond an individual's control.

03

Privilege matters. Flourishing may be highly influenced not by effort or character, but by access to resources. Structural determinants of health must remain central to this conversation.

04

Watch for substitution. What looks like flourishing may sometimes be trading one compulsive behavior for another. True flourishing involves balance and harmony across domains — not excellence in one area at the expense of others.

# “Recovery pessimism is the lie that must be forever expunged from cultural consciousness”

01

*Remission is the norm.*

Sustained recovery is widespread — it is the normative outcome for substance use disorders, not the exception.

02

*Recovery restores and enhances.*

SUD remission is frequently accompanied by measurable enhancements in global health and social functioning.

03

*Many go on to flourish.*

Significant numbers in long-term recovery achieve lives of community contribution, personal meaning, and genuine fulfillment.

*"It is hoped that the observations shared about such transformations will inspire increased study of this phenomenon and its potential recovery support implications and applications." — White (2026), p. 85*

# PANEL #3: “ONCE THE FIRE IS OUT: FLOURISHING IN ADDICTION RECOVERY”

*Facilitated by Chris Budnick, Executive Director  
of Healing Transitions*



**Bill Stauffer**

Executive Director, Pennsylvania  
Recovery Orgs Alliance



**Trina Fullard**

President & CEO, Charlotte  
Rescue Mission



**Jason Schwartz**

Director of Social Work and Spiritual Care at  
the University of Michigan Health System



# TARA KUNKEL

- Award-winning national leader in criminal justice, substance use, and public health.
- Inspired by a family member's struggle, built a career pioneering cross-sector collaborations.
- Former Senior Drug Policy Advisor, U.S. DOJ – grew opioid response program from \$27M → \$187M.
- Directed 25+ projects nationwide; forged DOJ–CDC partnership saving countless lives.
- MSW (VCU), BA (UVA). Resides in
- Arlington, VA & enjoys escape room competitions.

# KRIS BRYANT



- 30 years of justice experience, focusing on community corrections and court management.
- Former Principal Consultant at the National Center for State Courts, leading DOJ-funded projects.
- Expertise in justice, substance use, and mental health; trained in SIM & Evidence-Based Decision Making.
- Frequent national presenter on supervision, behavioral health, rural justice, and workforce wellness.
- MBA and a BS in Criminal Justice, with minors in Psychology, Sociology, and Business.

Rulo Strategies

FIVE PRACTICAL USE CASES

# AI for Local Government and Peer Professionals

*How to use AI to improve your communication, data work, funding applications, presentations, and thinking*

**Tara Kunkel and Kristina Bryant** · Rulo Strategies

# What you will leave with today

1

## Five real use cases

Each one tied to work you already do

2

## Sample prompts you can copy

No technical jargon, no setup

3

## One small win this week

Pick one thing and try it on Monday

### THE FRAME FOR TODAY

*AI is a draft partner, not a decision maker. It speeds up the parts of your job that are already tedious. You stay in charge of the work, the judgment, and the relationships.*

# The five use cases

---

1



## Communication

Hard emails, plain language, translation

2



## Data analysis

Themes, surveys, messy data

3



## Funding

NOFO triage, drafts, responsiveness checks

4



## Presentations

Outlines, audience adaptation, practice

5



## Thinking differently

Compare, build trainings, stress-test ideas

# The anatomy of a good prompt

*The difference between a useful AI response and a generic one usually comes down to how you asked.*

- 1 Role.** Who you are, or who the AI should act as. "I'm a peer specialist..." or "Act as a tough board member..."
- 2 Context.** The background needed to do the task well. The situation, the audience, the goal.
- 3 Task.** What you want it to do. Use a clear verb: draft, summarize, compare, rewrite, role-play.
- 4 Format.** How the output should look. Three drafts, a side-by-side table, a bulleted outline, a 200-word email.
- 5 Constraints.** Limits and guardrails. Wordcount, reading level, tone, what to avoid, what must be included.

## WEAK vs. STRONG

**Weak:** *"Write me an email about the grant rejection."*

**Strong:** *"I'm a program director writing to a community partner whose grant was not funded for the second year. Draft three versions — firm, warm, brief — each under 200 words, leaving the door open for future applications."*

# Which AI model should you use?

All four are good. They have real differences. Pricing as of May 2026.

## Claude

Anthropic · [claude.ai](https://claude.ai)

Strongest writing quality. Less likely to hallucinate confidently — admits when it does not know.

**Best for:** Grant narratives, policy briefs, long reports, careful editing

\$ Free · Pro \$20/mo · Max \$100-200/mo

## ChatGPT

OpenAI · [chat.openai.com](https://chat.openai.com)

Most versatile. Largest user community. Strong at brainstorming, voice, and image generation.

**Best for:** General use, brainstorming, image creation, broadest features

\$ Free (ads) · Plus \$20/mo · Pro \$200/mo

## Gemini

Google · [gemini.google.com](https://gemini.google.com)

Best Google Workspace integration. Largest context window. Strongest multimodal (video, audio, images).

**Best for:** Google-heavy workflows, very long documents, multimodal tasks

\$ Free · AI Pro \$19.99/mo · AI Ultra \$249.99/mo

## Copilot

Microsoft · [microsoft.com/copilot](https://microsoft.com/copilot)

Best Microsoft 365 integration. Built directly into Word, Excel, Outlook, and Teams.

**Best for:** Microsoft-heavy workflows, in-Word editing, Excel formulas

\$ Free · Business \$30/user/mo (req. M365)

**HONEST TAKE:** Pick one to learn well first. Try a second on the same task. Most professionals end up using two regularly.

1

USE CASE

# Communication

*AI as your free writing partner*

# Three ways to use AI for communication

1

## The hard email

Declining a request, addressing a complaint, following up with someone who missed appointments. Ask for three versions: firm, empathetic, and direct. Pick the one that fits.

2

## Plain language translator

Paste a dense paragraph from a regulation, grant report, or policy. Ask AI to rewrite it at a 6th-grade reading level for a community newsletter. The before-and-after is striking.

3

## Real translation

Convert flyers, letters, intake forms, or appointment reminders into Spanish or any language your community speaks. Useful for outreach to populations you have not been reaching well.

# Communication: a prompt to copy

*A prompt for the difficult email scenario above. Replace the bracketed parts with your situation.*

## TRY THIS PROMPT

I need to write an email to [a community partner whose second grant application was not funded]. I want to be honest, leave the door open for a future application, and not make them feel dismissed. Please draft three versions: one firm and direct, one warm and empathetic, and one that is brief and professional. Keep each under 200 words.

**Tip:** Always read every draft. AI does not know your relationship history, your political context, or the things you cannot say in writing.

# 2

USE CASE

## Data analysis

*Find patterns in messy text without spending the weekend*

# Three ways to use AI for data analysis

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1

## Theme analysis

Paste anonymized open-ended survey responses. Ask AI to identify the top three to five themes and pull representative quotes for each. Genuine time-saver for needs assessments.

2

## Survey design

Tell AI what you want to learn and who you want to learn it from. Ask for a survey with a mix of Likert scales and open-ended items. Edit the questions; do not just run with the first draft.

3

## Cleaning messy data

Standardize inconsistent entries (M / Male / male / m all becoming the same value). Reformat dates, fix capitalization, flag duplicates. This is where AI shines.

# Data analysis: a prompt to copy

*A prompt for theme analysis on open-ended survey responses. Anonymize before pasting.*

## TRY THIS PROMPT

I am going to paste 18 open-ended responses from a community needs assessment about transportation barriers. Please identify the top 4 themes that come up across responses. For each theme, give me: (1) a short name, (2) a one-sentence description, (3) the number of responses that touched on it, and (4) two representative quotes. Tell me if any theme only came from one or two responses so I do not over-weight it.

**Tip:** Verify themes against the original responses before reporting them. AI sometimes over-generalizes from a single response.

# 3

USE CASE

## Funding

*From 90-page solicitation to a real plan in an afternoon*

# Three ways to use AI for funding

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1

## NOFO triage

Upload the solicitation. In one prompt, get back: eligibility, total funding available, project period, required sections, page limits, evaluation criteria, deadline, and unusual requirements. Saves hours.

2

## Outline-to-draft

Take five bullet points about your program and turn them into a one-page narrative section. Edit aggressively. The structure is the gift; the words still need your hand.

3

## Responsiveness check

Paste the funder's evaluation criteria, then your draft narrative. Ask AI: 'Where am I weak against these criteria?' Like having a peer reviewer on demand.

# Funding: a prompt to copy

*A prompt for NOFO triage. Upload the solicitation as a PDF first.*

## TRY THIS PROMPT

I am attaching a federal Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please give me a structured summary that includes: (1) eligibility (who can apply), (2) total funding and award range, (3) project period, (4) required narrative sections with page or word limits, (5) evaluation criteria with point values, (6) the deadline and submission method, and (7) any unusual requirements such as match, partnership letters, or required data systems. Flag anything that looks like a deal-breaker for a small nonprofit applicant.

**Tip:** AI sometimes misses fine print. Always cross-check critical details (deadline, match requirements, eligibility) against the original document.

# 4

USE CASE

## Presentations

*From data and a deadline to a working draft fast*

# Three ways to use AI for presentations

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1

## Outline a deck from a report

Paste an executive summary or program metrics. Ask for a 12 to 15 slide outline with speaker notes and time progression. Faster than starting from a blank page.

2

## Audience adaptation

'Rewrite these three slides for elected officials who do not know our program.' Then again for 'frontline staff who already know the basics.' Same content, different framing.

3

## Practice with a skeptic

Ask AI to play a tough board member or skeptical funder and pepper you with hard questions about your program. Build your confidence before the real meeting.

5

USE CASE

# Thinking differently

*Use AI as a research partner and a critic, not just a writer*

# Four ways to use AI as a thinking partner

## Compare approaches

'Compare three evidence-based models for peer support in jail reentry. Strengths and limitations of each.' Faster than three database searches.

## Build a training fast

'Design a 90-minute training for new peer specialists on setting boundaries. Learning objectives, an icebreaker, two role-plays.' Edit, then deliver.

## The challenge prompt

'Argue the opposite of what I just said. What would a skeptical evaluator say is wrong with our approach?'

Stress-test your thinking before a critic does.

## Role-play scenarios

Have AI play a client in crisis, a difficult coworker, or a frustrated community member. Staff practice responses in a low-stakes setting.

# Before you start: protect your data

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*AI tools are not HIPAA-compliant by default. Treat anything you paste in like it could be seen by someone outside your agency.*

- 1 Never paste.** Client names, dates of birth, SSNs, case numbers, addresses, diagnosis details, or anything covered by HIPAA or 42 CFR Part 2.
- 2 Always anonymize.** Replace names with 'Client A,' specific dates with 'last month,' and locations with 'a mid-sized county.' Strip identifying details first.
- 3 Check with your agency.** Some employers offer enterprise AI accounts with stronger privacy protections. Ask before you use a personal account for work.

# AI is confident. That does not mean it is right.

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AI tools generate text that sounds authoritative even when the underlying facts are wrong. They will invent citations, statistics, and legal references with the same confidence they use for true ones.

## ALWAYS VERIFY

- **Citations and source references**  
Open the source. Confirm the page number, the quote, and the publication date.
- **Statistics and numbers**  
Especially anything you would put in a grant or a board memo.
- **Legal and regulatory references**  
AI confuses statutes, gets dates wrong, and cites repealed laws as current.

# Your one win this week

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*Pick one of the five use cases. Try it on one task. See what happens.*



## **Choose what is already on your plate**

An email you have been avoiding. A NOFO you need to read. A survey you need to design. Pick something real, not hypothetical.



## **Try one prompt from this deck**

Copy a prompt from the slides you saw today. Replace the bracketed parts with your specifics. See what comes back.



## **Share what worked with one colleague**

AI adoption spreads through stories, not memos. Tell one person what saved you time and they will try it too.

# Questions?

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*Thank you.*

## CONTACT

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# BINGO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write your name on this sheet.
2. Visit each exhibitor and have them sign their square.
3. Once all squares are filled, drop your completed sheet into the RAI Bucket.
4. You'll be entered into the Day 2 Samsung Galaxy Tablet A11+
5. Must be present to win.


# Get Ready for the Raffle Draw!




# Continuing Education Credits!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE EVALUATIONS TO RECEIVE CREDIT

**FREE**

Friday, May 8, 2026					
Session	NC APPB (SS)	NC State Bar (CLE)	NAADAC (CE)	Contact Hours	Initial session attendance
Keynote Speaker # 2 - Dr. John Kelly: "Maintaining Vigilance and Building Resilience: How Communities Mobilize Successful Change"		1			
Panel #2: "From Vigilance to Action: How Communities Sustain Recovery and Public Safety" Facilitator: David Whitesock // Panelists: Dr. John Kelly, Jeff Hill, Ernie Lee, Chris Budnick	2	1	2		
Table work Stephanie Thornton: Recovery Ecosystem	1	1	1		
Panel #3: "Once the Fire Is Out: Flourishing in Addiction Recovery" Facilitator: Chris Budnick, // Panelists: Bill Stauffer, Jason Schwartz, Trina Fullard	1	0	1		
<b>Total available</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Total for DAY 2 you are requesting</b>					

 <----- Scan QR Code to complete Day 2 Evaluation



DAY 2 EVALUATION

**OFFERING CONTINUED EDUCATION!**



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SS**

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SUD Collaborative

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***What you'll gain:***

- *Real-world examples from across counties*
- *Practical ideas you can take back and use*
- *Connections with regional partners doing the work*
- *Exposure to tools, resources, and approaches*

**JOIN US FOR THE  
UPCOMING REGIONAL  
MEETING on June 25<sup>th</sup> !**

**TOPIC: Recovery & Return to Use Prevention**

**JUN 25th - Lenoir County**

**1:00 - 2:15 PM**

Questions? Please contact **Heather Newton**  
heathern@recoveryall.org | Cell: 262-626-6842

# Save the Date!



**OCT**  
**THU & FRI**  
**8-9th**



ALIGN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS OF CARE



COLLABORATE AT THE INTERSECTION OF SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY



BUILD AWARENESS AROUND A KEY SOCIAL ISSUE

**The McKimmon Center at NC State**  
1101 Gorman Street  
Raleigh 27606



**Thank YOU for all  
tireless efforts in your  
communities around NC. The  
work continues! Thank you for  
joining us.**

