



Thousands Served Each & Every Year

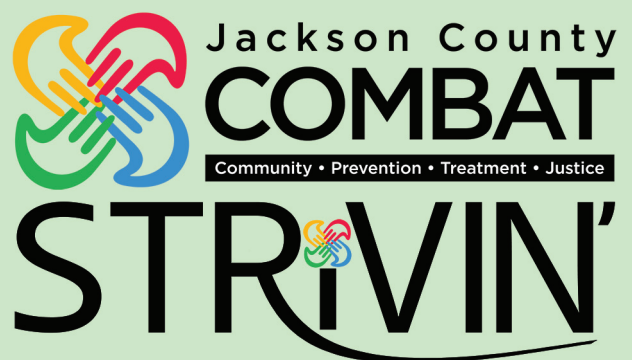
COMBAT-funded programs serve tens of thousands of men, women and children in Jackson County every year. Sasha and Frank ▲ have both been receiving crucial assistance since the fall of 2024, when each was referred through the social services referral program COMBAT introduced in 2021 as part its Striving To Reduce Violence In Neighborhoods (STRiVIN') initiative.

Sasha, a Kansas City mother of three, found not only treatment for her substance use disorder but genuine inspiration through the Greater Recovery program at the Greater Metropolitan Church of Christ in Midtown KC: "I'm not some important, rich person, but I have my sobriety.... I have these people to help and encourage me. I have God. I am alive and getting better."

Frank—his only home a tent in the woods—had lost all hope: "Death was creeping up on me." He literally laid down in the middle of a Kansas City street. Police transported him to the hospital and made a referral on his behalf. His fresh start has included housing assistance and treatment provided by two COMBAT-supported programs. "This gives me another chance at life," Frank said in early 2025.

Officials in Washington, D.C. are now replicating the STRiVIN' initiative in their city.

Voters first approved the Community Backed Anti-crime Tax in 1989, making Jackson County the nation's first county with a sales tax dedicated to funding drug abuse prevention programs and substance use disorder treatment. COMBAT's mission expanded in 2009 to also include violence prevention.



Striving Together to Reduce Violence In Neighborhoods

Because no one person or single agency has all the answers, in 2015 COMBAT launched what has since become the STRiVIN'—Striving Together to Reduce Violence In Neighborhoods—Initiative. STRiVIN' focuses on a collaborative effort to address the underlying causes of violence. This effort includes school administrators, faith-based organization leaders, police officers, social workers, health care providers, elected officials and concerned citizens—each having unique areas of expertise and personal experiences. The STRiVIN' social services referral program was introduced in 2021 to provide assistance to individuals, stressing, "Things don't have to get worse before they get better."

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Community	Prevention
Treatment	Justice



What Is COMBAT?

Community is at the forefront of everything that COMBAT stands for and does. We are committed to serving Jackson County as one community—from the urban center of Kansas City to the suburbs and rural areas of Eastern Jackson County.

Community literally comes first in COMBAT. The acronym stands for the **COMM**unity **B**acked **Anti**-Crime **T**ax. Each year the tax generates approximately \$30 million to \$35 million. More than half the funding is allocated to support law enforcement or the courts.

But substance abuse and violence are societal issues. We cannot arrest our way out of these problems. Therefore, COMBAT accepts grant applications from non-profit agencies based in and providing services in Jackson County. These agencies implement and operate a variety of vital prevention and treatment programs that COMBAT funds, upon approval of the COMBAT Anti-Crime Commission and the County Legislature.

What COMBAT Is Not?

Despite providing crucial funding to support local law enforcement, **COMBAT is not and never has been a law enforcement agency.**

COMBAT supports dozens of prevention and treatment programs annually—programs provided by non-profit agencies in Jackson County serving residents in Jackson County. COMBAT monitors these programs to assure compliance with funding guidelines and to measure their effectiveness. **COMBAT does not directly run these programs.**

COMBAT staff members do not directly provide treatment or social services.

All Hands In...

COMBAT’s evolution—from being almost entirely focused on law enforcement and the “War On Drugs” in the 1990s, to taking a far more holistic approach toward reducing drug abuse and violence—is reflected in logo unveiled in late 2021. We’ve unclenched the fist at the center of that outdated '90s logo and replaced it with helping hands that symbolize **Community**, **Prevention**, **Treatment** and **Justice** all working together.

We must approach violence and drug abuse as both legal issues and public health crises. Therefore, COMBAT’s role has shifted significantly in the last 15 years, with a greater emphasis on **Prevention** and **Treatment**, though most COMBAT funding still goes toward supporting local law enforcement.



Justice means pursuing violent offenders and drug dealers not only to prosecute them but to also save the lives of those they prey upon. COMBAT also understands **Justice** means developing programs that help crime victims become survivors, and **Justice** is realizing the community is better served when individuals suffering from a substance use disorder are given treatment—that the “just thing to do” is giving them a chance to save their lives.

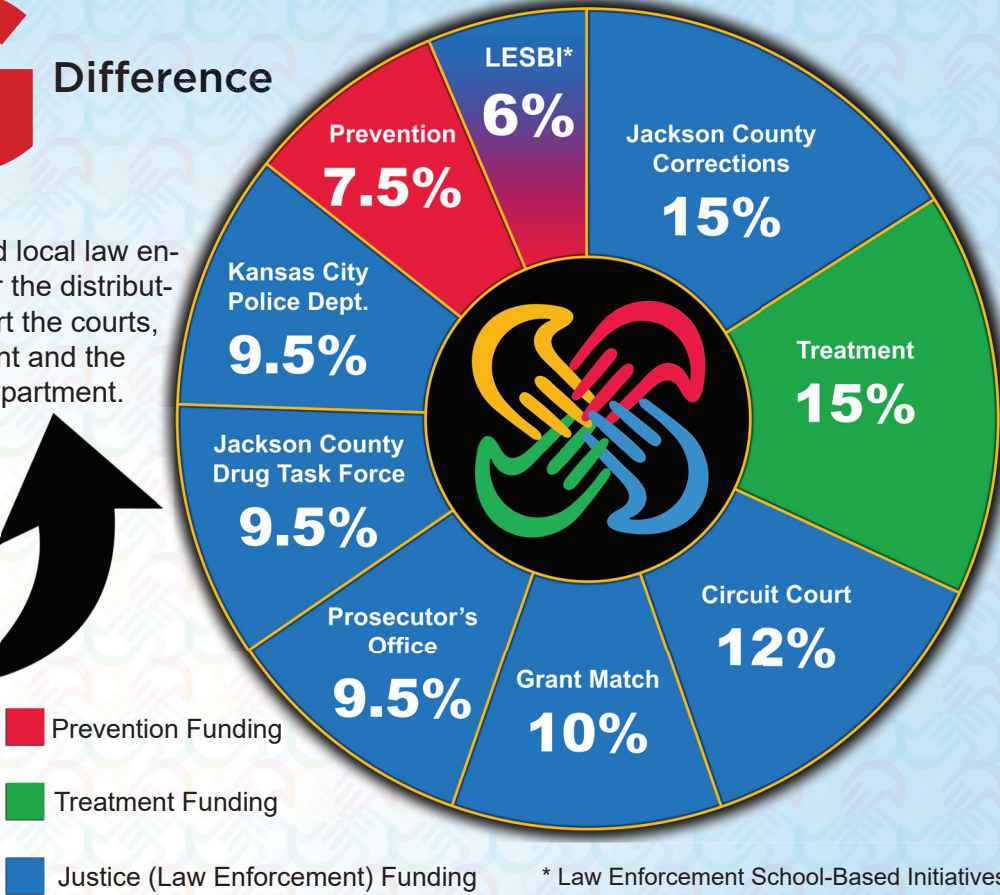
COMBAT is changing with the times to meet new challenges. The waging-war attitude of the '90s has been replaced with doing our best to make peace, so each neighborhood in our community can be a safe place to call home.

A Little Change Making A **BIG** Difference

Essential Funding Source

COMBAT continues to be an essential source of funding for the courts and local law enforcement. This pie chart represents Jackson County’s funding formula for the distribution of the anti-crime sales tax revenue, with **nearly 65%** going to support the courts, Jackson County Drug Task Force, Jackson County Corrections Department and the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, as well as the Kansas City Police Department.

More than **\$70 million** in COMBAT funding allocated to support the courts and local law enforcement 2022-2024



While the bulk of anti-crime tax funding goes toward supporting the courts and local law enforcement, COMBAT also funds non-profit agencies that provide Prevention and Treatment services—currently at more than 400 program locations across Jackson County.

Program funding totaled just over **\$36 million** between 2022-2024.

Chapter 93 of the Jackson County Code requires that the anti-crime sales tax be utilized “solely for the purpose of promoting and providing public safety.” At just a quarter-cent, the COMBAT tax equates to just 25 cents per \$100 spent on items for which sales taxes are charged. But all that change really adds up to make a BIG difference in our community.



30+ Years Of Service
Jackson County adopted the name COMBAT for its anti-crime tax program in 1993. Community partners joined COMBAT staff and commissioners to commemorate COMBAT’s 30th anniversary in 2023.

Committed To Making Each Neighborhood In Jackson County A Safe Place To Call Home