

# OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

## Pilot Projects to Build the Evidence Base for Overdose Prevention and Response

To build the evidence base for promising practices in opioid overdose prevention, CDC and the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) are working with several ORS states to develop and implement local projects designed to reduce overdoses. CDC provides technical support to these high need areas and works with HIDTAs and ORS PHAS and DIOs to ensure that the pilot projects are smoothly implemented and that their progress and impact are monitored effectively.

## Expansion Awards

### The Courage Center - South Carolina

[The Courage Center \(TCC\)](#) was awarded a second year of funding after receiving an Implementation Grant in 2020, during which TCC and partners established the Coordinated Overdose Response and Engagement (CORE) in Lexington, South Carolina. Through this post-overdose outreach program, EMS provided a pouch with resource cards and a prepaid cell phone to overdose survivors following naloxone administration. Within 72 hours, a recovery coach calls the phone provided in the pouch to offer survivors assistance accessing services like treatment, recovery, housing, and employment. Through the current Expansion Grant, TCC will extend the reach of the CORE program using mobile technology, develop partnerships with their local hospital, enhance their response to stimulant and polysubstance use, and focus community outreach in high-burden areas to increase successful linkages to treatment and recovery.

### North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition - North Carolina

The [North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition \(NCHRC\)](#) used the first three years of pilot project funding to develop, implement, and evaluate an overdose education and naloxone distribution program for jails in Cumberland, Catawba, and Haywood Counties in North Carolina. Through the current Expansion Grant, NCHRC will support the expansion of overdose education and naloxone distribution through the development and deployment of a digital training course for use on jail tablets. Additionally, NCHRC will continue their use of outreach specialists in several jails and their evaluation efforts to identify program successes and barriers.

### Turning Point Recovery Center - Vermont

The [Support Outreach Project \(SOP\)](#) will continue to build off their previously funded work and use the current Expansion Grant to extend the project to additional areas – Windsor and Windham Counties, VT. The SOP is modeled after the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative; it engages people who have experienced an overdose and had contact with law enforcement or emergency medical services agencies within the greater Springfield, Vermont region. Survivors of overdoses are referred to a police social worker and a trained recovery coach from Turning Point Recovery Center who conduct outreach to offer linkage to treatment, harm reduction services, ongoing coaching, housing assistance, and other social services.

## Planning Awards

### **Fayette FACTOR - Georgia**

[Fayette FACTOR](#) will use their Planning Grant to expand their Opioid Accountability Court Program to provide early intervention for opioid possession through education, assessments for opioid use disorder and mental health, and treatment referrals. They will seek to replace the binary legal solution (incarceration or release) with an enhanced assessment, education, and referral to treatment process, and build capacity to apply this to a greater portion of the justice-involved community in Fayette County. The team will convene multidisciplinary stakeholders, study best practices, engage available technical assistance, and chart current legal, evaluation and diversion processes, with the aim of launching and subsequently evaluating a pilot program.

### **Maine Medical Education Trust - Maine**

[Maine Medical Education Trust](#) will conduct a readiness assessment and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with the aim of establishing Public Health and Safety Teams (PHAST) in all counties across Maine. The team will identify and engage key public health and public safety leaders to form leadership teams in each county, as well as broader multidisciplinary stakeholders in each county including people from the healthcare, criminal justice, social service, and transportation sectors; people in recovery; harm reduction service providers; and tribal communities. This project will support each PHAST team to (1) increase knowledge and improve cross-sector collaboration, coordination, and shared accountability; (2) build an evidence-based library that can be used by future PHAST teams in Maine and other states; and (3) identify service gaps and needs and make recommendations to the Governor's Office of Opioid Response around how to implement and enhance programs and policies.

### **York Opioid Collaborative - Pennsylvania**

[York Opioid Collaborative](#), in partnership with Mid-Atlantic HIDTA, received a Planning Grant to develop a post-overdose multidisciplinary team to support and engage survivors of non-fatal overdoses, as well as their families, to reduce fatal overdoses. Through this project, York Opioid Collaborative will also build capacity for their multidisciplinary post-overdose outreach team by analyzing the barriers and challenges faced by people with substance use disorders and their families and will develop a shared understanding around the role of harm reduction.