PILOT PROJECTS to Advance Harm Reduction and Public Safety Partnerships to Prevent Overdose

2023 GRANTEE PROJECTS

Catholic Community Services
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington - Arrest and Jail Alternatives

Rooted in Catholic social teaching and the Gospel imperative, Catholic Community Services (CCS) and Catholic Housing Services (CHS) are outreaches of the Catholic Church in Western Washington, under the leadership of the Archbishop of Seattle and the Boards of Trustees. CCS and CHS answer the Gospel call to loving and compassionate service with particular concern for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and the dignity of the human person. CCS’s Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) program supports public safety by utilizing peer case managers and mental health professionals to assist Olympia, Wash., community members who are deeply marginalized based on multiple intersecting identities including homelessness, addiction, disability and criminal justice involvement.

CCS will leverage the funding from this grant to grow AJA’s impact by adding its Olympia AJA operations to its behavioral health agency licensure so the program can provide mental health services, supportive housing services and psychiatric medication prescribing locally, along with naloxone and other harm reduction supplies. CCS will also use the funding to systematically expand their partnerships with the Olympia Police Department and the city’s Crisis Response Unit. This collaboration will enable all partners to leverage data collected by various city programs for targeted, proactive outreach to community members at risk of overdose or criminal justice involvement.
CenterPointe

CenterPointe Overdose Outreach Program

CenterPointe is a non-profit Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Lincoln and Omaha, Neb., with the mission to “help the people we serve get better, sooner, for longer.” One of CenterPointe’s many current programs is its Street Outreach and Crisis Response teams, designed to serve those with emerging needs. CenterPointe will use the funding from this grant to expand the reach of these teams to touch all individuals who have a near-overdose or overdose-related interaction with the Lincoln Police Department.

Once identified, such individuals will receive targeted outreach during a 30-day period, including priority access to comprehensive, bio-psychosocial assessment and subsequent linkage to care. CenterPointe will also use this funding to provide overdose education to the Lincoln community more broadly – by conducting an overdose prevention public education campaign featuring printed materials and funding at least three billboards.

Families Against Narcotics

Families Against Narcotics – ReDirect

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) is a Michigan-based, grassroots, non-profit organization whose mission is to empower communities through education and recovery services that enhance the quality of life of all family members. FAN’s Comeback Quick Response Team (QRT) is an evidence-based overdose reduction program where partners from public safety, a FAN peer recovery coach, family coach/social worker and a paramedic or nurse, respond within 48 to 72 hours to homes of individuals who have overdosed. The team offers a warm handoff to harm reduction, treatment, resources and family support.

The funding from this grant will enable FAN to implement ReDirect – a project to expand Comeback QRTs in two Michigan communities focusing specifically on the harm reduction support these QRTs can provide. This funding will also be used to add a member to the QRTs – a harm reduction case manager (CM) who will conduct an extensive assessment to determine clients’ needs, offer wraparound services and find ways to “meet them where they are” to continue their engagement.
Moab Regional Recovery Center

Improving Outcomes for Incarcerated and Recently Rural Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

The Moab Regional Recovery Center (MRRC), located in Moab, Utah, in a dedicated outbuilding on the Moab Regional Hospital (MRH) campus, provides recovery, treatment, and harm reduction services. The MRRC strives to create a welcoming, supportive environment respectful of patients’ dignity, rights and individual recovery goals.

The MRRC will use the funding from this grant to improve and expand access and referrals to care among the highest-risk populations, with a particular focus on increasing collaborative care within the criminal justice system. In partnership with the Grand County Sheriff’s Office, the MRCC will provide targeted outreach and services to individuals recently released from jail who are at increased risk of opioid-related overdose through screening and assessments, treatment and/or diversion programs, jail-based programming, and overdose prevention efforts. In addition to direct services for those currently or recently incarcerated, the MRRC will work closely with the Sheriff’s office to identify and implement enhanced training for all corrections staff around harm reduction and substance use disorder.

Osborne Association, Inc.

Fulton Community Reentry Center

Osborne Association is a New York state-based service and advocacy organization that supports people at every stage of the criminal legal system. Osborne offers several programs, including substance use disorder treatment, harm reduction and counseling and will begin offering transitional housing at its Fulton Community Reentry Center in early 2023.

Osborne will leverage the funding from this grant to provide harm reduction services to formerly incarcerated people housed at the Fulton Community Reentry Center. To do so, Osborne will employ peer workers trained in evidence-based health education and harm reduction curriculum to facilitate orientation and group services, as well as provide support for appointments. Osborne will also use the funding to partner with the New York Police Department and New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Parole to train public safety team members in harm reduction and advocate for alternatives to arrest and parole violation for Fulton residents.
Recovery Resource Council

Dallas Overdose Response Team

Recovery Resource Council is a North Texas behavioral health facility and treatment center that provides prevention, education, treatment and supportive services free of charge to the community.

As part of its programming, Recovery Resource Council currently operates an overdose response team in Tarrant County, Texas. Within 72 hours of an incident, this team brings trained behavioral health and public safety professionals to individuals who have experienced an overdose to give them and their household the opportunity to meet with a certified peer support specialist or licensed master social worker who offers connections to resources and help navigating barriers. The Recovery Resource Council will use the funding from this grant to expand the overdose response team to the city of Dallas, Texas, in partnership with Emergency Medical Services for Dallas Fire-Rescue.

SOAR Initiative

Piloting a Replicable Deadly Batch Alert System Model

The SOAR Initiative (SOAR) is a young, innovative harm reduction nonprofit meshing technology and grassroots harm reduction activism to help people who use drugs use more safely. Based in Ohio, SOAR’s main program is the Deadly Batch Alert System – a mobile application and text alert system that notifies people who use drugs, their loved ones and first responders when overdoses surge or particularly dangerous drugs are circulating in the community.

The Deadly Batch Alert System is currently live in Ohio, but has the potential for broader implementation. The funding from this grant will be used to pave the way for the system to be implemented beyond Ohio. Funds will be used to create a secure dashboard where local grassroots leaders and public health authorities can send Deadly Batch Alerts by region and view visualizations of community-submitted reports and data from public safety partners. Collaboration with local public safety partners will be an essential part of this work to source much of the data populating the system. SOAR will also use this funding to implement two pilot sites outside Ohio, including local app and text setup and distribution of fentanyl and xylazine test strips.
Wilkes Recovery Revolution

Wilkes Post-overdose Response Team (PORT) Project

Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. (WRR) is a nonprofit recovery community organization whose mission is to create a community where recovery is possible for all through restoring hope, repairing lives and rebuilding community. WRR already has several programs in place offering supportive recovery services to those in need in Wilkes County, N.C.

The funding from this grant will be used to implement peer-led outreach to individuals who recently experienced an overdose and to areas where overdoses are occurring to offer those at risk the resources they need. WRR will use the funds to create a post-overdose response team (PORT) in conjunction with Wilkes County Emergency Medical Services, Wilkesboro Police Department, North Wilkesboro Police Department and Wilkes Medical Center. This team of professionals will focus on 1) targeted Naloxone and fentanyl testing distribution, 2) warm handoffs to syringe service programs and substance use disorder treatment and 3) community and individual training sessions, ensuring both individuals and the community are prepared to respond to overdoses.