

Tools for Preventing Overdose Engagement Workgroup

Information and Registration Form

Overview

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are pleased to announce the Tools for Preventing Overdose Engagement Workgroup, taking place March through July.

Over five months, this training and technical assistance (TTA) opportunity will bring together local and regional public health agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs) and subject matter experts to identify and overcome challenges overdose prevention programs face and maximize the programs' impact.

Using a variety of frameworks — such as implementation science, knowledge translation, Knowledge-to-Action and evidence-based decision-making — participants will assess and plan to adopt and implement evidence-based practices and research into regular use at their facilities.

This engagement workgroup will:

- Discuss obstacles and facilitators to the uptake, scale and sustainability of overdose prevention practices and programs.
- Identify strategies to overcoming challenges to increasing program sustainability.
- Develop an action plan to enact change and address identified challenges within one's own organization, programming and/or service provision.
- Introduce participants to existing frameworks that may help provide common language or existing concepts to consider for action planning (e.g., implementation science, knowledge translation, Knowledge-to-Action, evidence-based decision-making).

Eligibility

Any local and regional public health department or agency and CBOs, including community behavioral health organizations and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, is eligible to participate in this Engagement Workgroup.

An organization hoping to participate will register as a "Change Team" with three to five staff members who represent a balance of expertise, roles, and perspectives that can drive implementation efforts effectively.

We highly encourage teams to include staff with lived/living experience of substance use and/or overdose as members of the Change Team. People with lived and living experience provide perspectives stemming from personal experience that are crucial to program design, implementation and delivery, including knowledge of community conditions, needs, challenges and resources.

Change Teams could include, but are not limited to, staff with the following responsibilities or expertise related to overdose prevention programming:

- Project/program management (e.g., project/program director)
- Leadership with decision-making authority (e.g., chief program officer)
- Evaluation/quality improvement (e.g., evaluator)
- Engagement/outreach (e.g., engagement specialist, community liaison, case manager, care coordinator, peer specialist)
- Clinical expertise (e.g., clinical/community-based supervisor or someone who understands clinical workflows and can help align engagement efforts with service delivery/implementation)

Agencies and organizations may register individually, though we encourage those interested to connect with and encourage others in their catchment area or community to apply as well. For example, a local public health agency may encourage a community partner to register to maximize benefit to their community.

Up to 10 Change Teams will be selected to participate in the Engagement Workgroup (five local or regional health agencies and five CBOs*).

**CBOs will receive with a \$3,000 organizational honorarium to support their participation in the workgroup.*

Program Overview and Activities

- Ongoing virtual TTA via:
 - Virtual sessions — **third Tuesday of each month, 3-4:30 p.m. ET.**
 - March 17 (kick-off/orientation)
 - April 21
 - June 16
 - July 21
 - Cohort collaboration opportunities centered around topics based on cohort needs.
 - Light, interim change team work between sessions.
 - Support developing and finalizing an action plan.
 - Bi-weekly newsletters and digests catered to the workgroup including program updates, resources and upcoming events, as available.
- Optional ad hoc coaching calls with subject matter experts, availability allowing.
- In-person, 1.5-day Engagement Forum* (**May 18-19, Washington, D.C.**)

**The National Council will cover travel expenses and hotel accommodations for two nights for up to 4 individuals per Change Team.*

Selected teams should be available to participate in all program activities, including monthly calls and the in-person Engagement Forum. The estimated time commitment for participation in this five-month program is roughly two to four hours/month, plus the in-person convening in May (1.5 days, plus travel).

Registration Submission

All registration forms are due **by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026**, and must be submitted online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EngagementWorkgroupRegistration>

Notification regarding Change Team selection will be sent by email by Friday, Feb. 27.

Questions about the registration form or this program? Contact [Samantha Sawyer](#).

Registration Form Questions

(For reference only)

Do not fill out and submit this document. All final registration forms must be submitted online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EngagementWorkgroupRegistration>

Basic Information

- 1 Organization/Agency Name: _____
- 2 Physical Address: _____
- 3 What type of organization or agency do you represent? *Select all that apply*
 - State Health Department
 - Local Health Department
 - Tribal Health Department
 - Community-based Organization (CBO)
 - Community Behavioral Health Organization (CBHO)
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)
 - Public Health Institute
 - Public Health Organization
 - Non-profit
 - Other: _____
- 4 Whom do you primarily serve or work with? (e.g., populations, communities, geographic area, types of overdose prevention programming/services, etc.)
- 5 Please select your [US HHS Region](#).
 - Region I: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
 - Region II: NJ, NY, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
 - Region III: DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

- Region IV: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
- Region V: IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
- Region VI: AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
- Region VII: IA, KS, MO, NE
- Region VIII: CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
- Region IX: AZ, CA, HI, NV and the six U.S. Associated Pacific Jurisdictions
- Region X: AK, ID, OR, WA

6 How many people are participating as a part of your team? (3-5 staff required)

7 Name of person submitting registration/“Team Lead” (Participant 1):

- Full Name: _____
- Job title/Role: _____
- Email Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Attending in person meeting?
 - Yes
 - No

8 Participant 2:

- Full Name: _____
- Job title/Role: _____
- Email Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Attending in person meeting?
 - Yes
 - No

9 Participant 3:

- Full Name: _____
- Job title/Role: _____
- Email Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Attending in person meeting?
 - Yes
 - No

10 Participant 4 (optional):

- o Full Name: _____
- o Job title/Role: _____
- o Email Address: _____
- o Phone Number: _____
- o Attending in person meeting?
 Yes
 No

11 Participant 5 (optional):

- o Full Name: _____
- o Job title/Role: _____
- o Email Address: _____
- o Phone Number: _____
- o Attending in person meeting?
 Yes
 No

Interest in the Program

- 1 Why are you interested in participating in the Tools for Preventing Overdose Engagement Workgroup?
- 2 What do you hope to gain or learn by participating in this program?
- 3 How do you see this workgroup supporting your work, organization or community?
- 4 What challenges or barriers does your organization(s) face in addressing overdose/preventing overdose within your jurisdiction?

Experience and Readiness

- 1 Briefly describe your team's or organizations' relevant experience related making programmatic decisions based on evidence, emerging science and existing data.

- 2 How familiar are you with existing concepts like implementation science? Knowledge translation? Data to action?

- 3 Are you currently involved in any implementation science, knowledge translation or data-to-action initiatives or efforts?

Needs Assessment/Topical Interests

Please select the top five implementation science topic areas that you want to address through participation in this program AND briefly describe what you'd like to know more about related to the topic(s) selected.

Topic	Would you like to learn more about this topic?	Briefly describe what specifically you'd like to know more about.
Foundations of implementation science in public health		
Assessing context and population needs		
Building implementation infrastructure and capacity		
Implementing and adapting evidence-based interventions		
Determining if interventions work, why, and how to sustain progress		
Recognizing what works vs. what works here		
Continuously engaging partners and community		
Selecting and tailoring strategies that are the best fit		
Balancing fidelity and adaptation		

Distinguishing between implementation outcomes from health outcomes		
Using data for improving strategies continuously		
Scaling with fidelity		
Financing and reimbursement strategies		
Navigating political and organizational change		
Applying these concepts in nonresearch settings		
Other: _____		

Participation and Logistics Checklist and Applicant Confirmation

The Change Team agrees to participate in the following activities:

- Monthly 90-minute TTA webinars (Third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. ET)
 - March 17, 3-4:30 p.m. ET
 - April 21, 3-4:30 p.m. ET
 - June 16, 3-4:30 p.m. ET
 - July 21, 3-4:30 p.m. ET

- 1.5 day in-person Engagement Forum convening May 18-19, 2026*

**Travel and hotel (two nights) for up to four people per team will be covered by the National Council.*

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$400,000 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The content is that of the author(s) and does not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. government.