

Rural Response Network



RCORP Implementation Grant Award: \$1,000,000 for period 9/1/22-8/31/25

Overarching goals:

- Reduce the morbidity and mortality of substance abuse disorder and opioid use disorder for vulnerable populations that historically suffer from poorer health outcomes:
 - Low-income, unemployed men and women
 - Black/African Americans and Hispanic/Latino men
 - Youth and young adults
 - Individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders
- Decrease barriers and improve care and coordination for individuals who seek and are in need of SUD/OPUD prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Overarching Goals (cont.)

- Increase the number of direct access points for SUD/ODU treatment and recovery support services, including for underinsured and uninsured individuals, in Oberlin, Wellington and surrounding rural township
- Increase community awareness and education of substance use and mental health disorders and reduce stigma
- Increase the security and safe disposal of prescription medications through education and the distribution of medication safety bags and Medication Disposal System Pouches
- Minimize the harmful effects of illicit drug use and decrease the chance of overdose through education on fentanyl and the distribution of test strips and Naloxone (Narcan)

Who We Are

Nine core members and many additional partners who assist with planning, implementation and community education:

- The LCADA Way is the lead agency with partners including the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County, Lorain County Public Health, The Road to Hope, LINC (Local Initiative to Network Compassion), Oberlin Community Services, Let's Get Real, and the Oberlin and Wellington police departments.
- Other members include Wellington and Oberlin public school districts, THRIVE! Southern Lorain County, Main Street Wellington, Oberlin Business Partnership, Salvation Army Service Units in Wellington and Oberlin, Lorain County Community College Wellington Center, Mercy Health, Oberlin College and the city of Oberlin.

Prevention

More Educational Programs to recognize substance use and mental health problems

- ✓ Programs that teach people to recognize the signs and symptoms of substance use and misuse and how to respond

More Educational Programs for Parents

- ✓ Programs that educate parents about the harmful effects of substance use, especially around tobacco and marijuana as it relates to brain development
- ✓ Programs that provide parents with the skills and training and knowledge necessary to talk with their kids about substance

Prevention

More Education Programs for the Community

- ✓ General community awareness and education campaigns about SUD—scope, prevalence, addiction as an illness
- ✓ Training to first responders, recovery community (stigma, MAT), healthcare and behavioral healthcare providers & other targeted populations)

Treatment

- ✓ Establish 2 satellite offices in service area (Oberlin/Wellington)
- ✓ Establish 3 telehealth sites in service area; provision of tablets
- ✓ Expand recruitment and training of health care paraprofessionals
- ✓ Train treatment providers in Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- ✓ Train primary care physicians (Data 2000/X Waivers, Naloxone)

Treatment

- ✓ Create direct linkage programs (modeled after WHO, non 24 hr.)
- ✓ Establish Oberlin P.D. as a police-assisted referral to treatment site
- ✓ Improve knowledge and linkage to resources (Care Coordinators, Community Coordinators-LINC, OCS, website/FB, CPS)
- ✓ Increase access to services for racial/ethnic minorities

Harm Reduction

- ✓ Generate Awareness about Harm Reduction (Print/digital campaigns, overdose prevention training, Naloxone distribution, Good Samaritan Law)
- ✓ Naloxone distribution (pop-ups, community outreach, increase targeted and general distribution sites)
- ✓ Distribute fentanyl test strips (establish 6 sites for distribution, outreach to high risk pops via CPS)
- ✓ Improve awareness of Safe Storage and Disposal of Prescription Medications (awareness campaigns, increase targeted and general distribution sites)

Recovery Support Services

- ✓ Increase access to support groups (create three new support groups: one for youth and adolescents and two non-twelve step recovery based groups)
- ✓ Increase peer support services (outreach, high risk populations)
- ✓ Recruit and train more peer recovery supporters
- ✓ Work with local businesses and employers (recruit and train employers to be “recovery-friendly” workplaces; provide vocational services to individuals in recovery)
- ✓ Identify/Create opportunities for exercise and fitness for persons in recovery