



Minnesota  
Duluth Police Department  
Duluth Police Department Diversion

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

## Overview

The City of Duluth Police Department's Lake Superior Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (LSDVCTF) will implement a multijurisdictional unit response to the growing trend of overdose deaths. The unit comprises both sworn and nonsworn members who have full-time support from 18 law enforcement agencies. Statistically, the region is disproportionately affected by substance use disorder (SUD), specifically overdose deaths. The LSDVCTF's area of focus consists of St. Louis County, the largest county in Minnesota, which covers 7,092 square miles, as well as Lake County and Carlton County in Minnesota, and the city of Superior in Wisconsin, which accounts for an additional 5,346 square miles. The county seat for St. Louis County is the city of Duluth. The Task Force's area of operation contains Native American tribal lands in the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation. The Native American overdose death rate in this region is one of the highest in the country. In

2019 St. Louis County was designated a High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In 2019, the region experienced 223 non-fatal overdoses; 64 individuals accessed substance use assessments; 55 accessed substance use treatment; and 53 accessed recovery support services.

## Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Develop and disseminate research on opioid policies and interventions.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Integrate standardized screening practices into the criminal justice system.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.
- Self-Referral Model: Operate the substance use hotline number and accept self-referrals as well as family members and friends. Accept new clients through peer-to-peer referrals from current clients who are invested in the program.
- Officer Intervention Referral Model: Officers can make referrals of individuals without pending criminal charges into the program, with pending criminal charges to be held upon completion of the diversion program.
- Naloxone Plus Model: Narcan distribution and training to law enforcement agencies within the task force area. Training includes basic substance use awareness and response: number of kits dispersed = 400+, number of personnel trained = 200+, number of people saved = 79.

## Program Approach

The Duluth Police Department Substance Use Response Team was created to reduce controlled substance overdose and overdose deaths in the region utilizing elements of the Five Pathways to:

- Providing individuals suffering from SUD with treatment options; incorporating elements of the Five Pathways to treatment creates an opportunity to reduce the demand for controlled substances.
- Active Outreach Model: Actively engage with overdose survivors and make personal introductions to appropriate resources and treatment programs.
- Engage in a drug court program for the region, to include making referrals of appropriate program participants into drug court.
- Engage all program participants in an ongoing peer-recovery-based case management model.
- Emphasis is on continued, post treatment case management until one year of recovery is achieved.

## Project Partners

- Duluth Police Department
- St. Louis County Health and Human Services
- Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment
- Lake Superior Drug and Violent Crime Task Force
- SOAR Career Services
- Southern St. Louis County Drug Court

## Contact Information

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