



Minnesota
Minneapolis Health Department
Project Connect

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

Overview

The city of Minneapolis is the county seat of Hennepin County. With a population of 422,331, Minneapolis is the largest city in Minnesota and accounts for 37 percent of the county population and over half of the deaths by overdose (52 percent). In May 2016, the Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD) implemented a policy of equipping firefighters with naloxone. Since then, firefighters have administered the lifesaving medicine more than 600 times in response to opioid overdoses. In 2018, more than 950 overdose calls occurred and, between the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the MFD, naloxone was used more than 250 times. The MPD saw a 229 percent increase in the number of hours spent on responses to nonfatal overdose calls from 2015 to 2018. In 2018, the MPD's Third Precinct (south of downtown and home to one of the most impacted communities—the American Indian community) responded to 359 nonfatal overdose calls. Minneapolis's American Indian population has been disproportionately impacted: the three-year average (2016 to 2018) mortality rate of opioid-contributed

overdoses among American Indians (136 deaths per 100,000 persons) is almost seven times as high as that of the citywide rate for Minneapolis (20 deaths per 100,000 persons). The second community to be impacted by this crisis disproportionately is the black community, specifically in North Minneapolis. The mortality rate among black residents (31 deaths per 100,000 persons) nearly doubles that of the white population.

Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Program Approach

The project helps ensure that those who are at risk for overdose or are survivors of a nonfatal overdose (and their families) are connected to substance abuse, behavioral health, harm reduction, and peer recovery support services through an emergency room-based response project at Hennepin County Medical Center.

This project will:

- Partner with the MPD, the MFD, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to work with individuals who need to be connected to substance abuse, behavioral health, harm reduction, and peer recovery support services at the time of encounter or shortly thereafter.
- Provide trained wellness advocates to be on call to respond to the hospital in the event of an overdose. This person will have one hour to get to the hospital and work with the patient, connect the patient to services, establish a working relationship, and consult with hospital staff. The advocate will maintain a relationship with the patient for a minimum of six months. In partnership with the MPD, the MFD, and EMS, the wellness advocates also will connect with individuals referred by first responders.

A partnership with ServeMinnesota (AmeriCorps) will facilitate staffing for these projects, in part using Minnesota Recovery Corps (MORe Corps) members who are trained peer recovery coaches.

A research and evaluation team from the Minneapolis Health Department will serve as the evaluator of this project and will work closely with city departments and the City Attorney's Office to properly determine the data for inclusion in the evaluation. The evaluator will continue to monitor the final death records after the grant conclusion.

Project Partners

- Minneapolis Police Department
- Minneapolis Fire Department
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hennepin Health (Hennepin County Medical Center)
- ServeMinnesota

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