



BJA's
Comprehensive
Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Abuse
Program



Ohio
Adams County Health Department
Taking Action Together Initiative

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

Overview

Adams County, part of Ohio Appalachia, is located in south-central Ohio along the Ohio River. It encompasses 584 square miles and is the tenth largest of Ohio's 88 counties, within which 27,726 people reside, making it the 79th most populous county. It is a poor, rural county, with 25 percent of its population living in poverty, the second-highest percentage in Ohio. Like many rural, poor Appalachian communities, Adams County has been profoundly impacted by the opioid addiction epidemic, cited as the leading health problem in the 2017 Community Health Assessment by the Adams County Health Department. Geographic, economic, and cultural barriers limits locally available substance use treatment options. The prevalence of coexisting mental health disorders—the second-leading health problem in the county—and inadequate mental health services impacts the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatment in Adams County.

Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.

Program Approach

The Taking Action Together Initiative intends to expand access to supervision, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) across the criminal justice system. In addition, it

will promote education and prevention for opioid and SUDs, which will address the needs of children impacted by the opioid crisis.

Initiative objectives will be achieved through a collaborative community approach. The initiative will embed a community care coordinator within the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and County Court to provide a real-time interface between community recovery services and the criminal justice system.

The capacity of the Quick Response Team, which offers immediate access to prevention services following encounters with EMS and law enforcement, will be expanded under the initiative, providing stipends to team volunteers who provide after-hours support for vulnerable individuals.

The initiative will expand drug treatment opportunities to incarcerated individuals and establish peer recovery support before release.

A Handle With Care program has been developed through the initiative to connect children who experience drug-related traumatic events with school resources designed to provide children with trauma-informed care.

An Overdose Fatality Review Committee will be created to review overdose deaths for indicators of service gaps and mechanisms to strengthen the community's opioid response.

Project Partners

- Adams County Sheriff's Office
- Adams County Children Services Board
- Coalition for Drug Fee Adams County
- Adams County Ohio Valley School District
- Manchester Local School District
- Adams County Pleas Court, County Court and Probation Department

Contact Information

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