

Naloxone distribution- discretionary grant funds

Overview

The Washington State Project to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose (WA-PDO) has been a statewide network of organizations mobilizing communities, providing overdose response training, and distributing naloxone through rural law enforcement and first responders statewide. The program supports naloxone administration training in five high-need areas (HNAs).

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2023 (8/31/2023 – 8/30/2024), the project had a change of scope to focus naloxone distribution to rural law enforcement and first responders to reduce overdose risk and deaths among people who use opioids.

The WA-PDO is a collaborative five-year project between the Washington State Health Care Authority's (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) with the purpose of preventing opioid overdose and deaths and building local infrastructure to plan, implement, evaluate, and fund overdose prevention efforts in the long-term.

Objectives:

- Develop overdose prevention strategic plans in Washington State
- Equip rural law enforcement and first responders with overdose response training/naloxone
- Equip and educate communities with overdose response training/naloxone
- Facilitate coordination in five HNAs among local and regional stakeholders and with state agencies
- Build data infrastructures to inform resource allocation, maintain overdose surveillance, and measure outcomes
- Create knowledge translation infrastructure to disseminate emerging data, best practices, training, and technical assistance

Budget for SFY 25

This five-year federal grant runs from August 31, 2021, through August 30, 2026. The budget is \$850,000 each year for a total of \$4,250,000 million over the five years.

Authority

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP): Grant Number H79SP082732.

Fiscal year 2024 highlights

Between August 31, 2023, and August 30, 2024, 6,060 naloxone kits were distributed, and 3,554 individuals were trained on naloxone. Leave behind naloxone kits were also provided at the time of an overdose reversal in some circumstances.

Partners

Partners include Washington State DOH and statewide rural law enforcement and first responder agencies.

HNA partners for training and coordination include:

- North Puget Sound: Skagit County Human Services
- Northeast: Spokane Regional Health District
- South Puget Sound: Dave Purchase Project
- Southwest: Willapa Behavioral Health
- Southeast: Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

Oversight

The HCA WA-PDO project director provides oversight to DOH for WA-PDO grant-funded naloxone distribution projects. DOH in turn provides oversight to sub-contractors and other entities distributing naloxone and collecting data for the projects.

For more information

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Naloxone distribution- federal block grant and general fund-state

Overview

The Washington State Health Care Authority's (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is partnering with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Naloxone Education and Distribution (OEND) to provide overdose response training and distributing naloxone through syringe service programs, local agencies, physical health settings, emergency services, and a state-wide mail order program.

Activities engage professionals, first responders, local and regional stakeholders, and health care providers to reduce overdose risk and deaths among people who use heroin and prescription opioids. Per the Naloxone Distribution Plan, DOH has taken the lead on naloxone distribution and overdose response training.

This program is a strategic priority of the State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan under the authority of Executive Order 16-109 with the purpose of preventing opioid overdose and deaths from opioid overdose, and building local infrastructure to plan, implement, evaluate, and fund overdose prevention efforts in the long-term.

Objectives:

- Equip lay responders and professionals with overdose response training/naloxone through access at local agencies/ entities.
- Educate health care providers, local agencies, syringe exchange programs, and emergency services on opioid guidelines, patient overdose education, opioid use disorders, and naloxone distribution; and
- Build and harmonize data infrastructures to inform resource allocation, maintain overdose surveillance, and measure outcomes.
- Make sure there is no overlap of naloxone distribution between this program and the WA-PDO program; and
- Work closely with HCA DBHR to develop a sustainability plan, to include funding.

Budget for SFY 25

The budget for SFY 25 includes:

- \$2,500,000 Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant
- \$3,651,000 General Fund-State (GF-S)
Total of \$6,151,000.

Fiscal year 2024 highlights

OEND and their partners distributed approximately 250,000 naloxone kits and provided nearly 70,000 naloxone trainings.

The mail-order naloxone program distributed 47,000 naloxone kits. This program is highly effective at reaching American Indian/Alaska Native communities as they are more likely to receive naloxone through this program than other populations.

Partners

Washington State Department of Health- Drug User Health Team and Office of Education and Naloxone Distribution.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Oversight

The State Opioid Administrator at HCA provides oversight to DOH for naloxone distribution funded by SUPTRS Block Grant and GF-S. DOH provides oversight to any subcontractors and other entities distributing naloxone and collecting data for the projects.

For more information

Contact: HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov

Kris Shera - State Opioid Administrator

Opioid overdose reversal medication distribution program (2SSB 5195)

Overview

To increase access to opioid overdose reversal medication for all individuals at-risk of an opioid overdose, Second Substitute Senate Bill 5195 (2SSB 5195) instructed the distribution of naloxone in hospital emergency departments and behavioral health settings.

Effective January 1, 2022, impacted organizations must facilitate the provision, education, and billing of pre-packaged naloxone to individuals with an opioid use disorder and/or at risk of opioid overdose. Such organizations include emergency departments (EDs) and licensed or certified behavioral health agencies (BHAs),

Technical Assistance

Website

The Washington Health Care Authority maintains a [website](#) that serves as a central repository for all published materials, contact information, technical assistance, and updates. Recordings of trainings are also posted following each training event.

Educational materials

In compliance with [RCW 71.24.594](#), HCA produced [educational materials](#) on directions for use of naloxone, medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and [harm reduction services and strategies](#) in all relevant, community languages.

Toolkits

ED- and BHA-specific [toolkits](#) are available and serve as the cornerstone of DBHR technical assistance. Included in the toolkits is guidance on policy development and implementation, as well as editable word templates for policies, staff education materials, smart phrases, FAQ sheets, and other resources supporting naloxone distribution.

Eligibility

Individuals with an opioid use disorder or at risk of overdose who access services at hospital

82-0482 (10/24)

emergency departments or community behavioral health agencies are eligible.

Authority

2021 Washington State Legislation [2SSB 5195](#), [RCW 71.24.594](#)

Key partners

- Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
- University of Washington- Addictions, Drug and Alcohol Institute (UW-ADAI)
- The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)
- HCA Medicaid Program Divisions (MPD)
- HCA Clinical Quality and Care Transformation (CQCT)

Oversight

DBHR oversees the educational and technical assistance requirements. Other HCA divisions, including MPD and CQCT, oversee billing and purchasing.

More information

Contact: HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov

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