

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 syringe exchange programs in five high-need areas (HNAs).

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2023 (8/31/2023 – 8/30/2024), the project focuses on 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
- Develop new models of substance use treatment linkage and care coordination in five HNAs
- 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

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) have authority. (Grant Number H79SP082732).

Budget

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.

Federal fiscal year 2022 highlights

Between August 31, 2022, and August 30, 2023, 33,008 naloxone kits were distributed, and 5,015 individuals were trained on naloxone. 4,332 reported overdose reversals with program kits, with 100% of those reported overdose reversals completed by lay responders.

Key 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.

More information

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Naloxone distribution- federal block grant funds

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) to provide overdose response training and distributing naloxone through syringe exchange programs, local agencies, physical health settings, and emergency services. 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. HCA DBHR contracts with DOH to carry out the program. Per the Naloxone Distribution Plan, DOH has taken the lead on naloxone distribution and overdose response training.

This program is one of the strategies developed by 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.

Authority

State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan

Executive Order 16-09.

Budget

The past budget for naloxone was \$864,000 each year of grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG), Grant Number 1B08TI084681. Going forward, starting in the state fiscal year 2024, \$2,500,000 is allocated from SABG funds each year for the purchase and distribution of naloxone.

Federal fiscal year 2023 highlights

Between October 21, 2022, and September 30, 2023, 74,668 naloxone kits were distributed, and 34,312 individuals were trained on naloxone. 12,502 reported overdose reversals using program kits.

Key partners

Washington State Department of Health- Drug User Health Team

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Oversight

The State Opioid Administrator at HCA provides oversight to DOH for SABG grant funded naloxone distribution projects. DOH in turn provides oversight to any subcontractors and other entities distributing naloxone and collecting data for the projects.

More information

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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

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
- University of Washington- Addictions, Drug and Alcohol Institute
- The Office of the Insurance Commissioner
- 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

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