

HEAL Ohio

Harm Reduction. Education. Advocacy. Leadership.

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Ensuring Settlement Funds Serve Our Communities

In order for funds to have maximum impact, the following must be true:

- Funding must be achievable for all types of organizations, especially community-based, grassroots, harm reduction groups that may not have 501c3 status.
- Funding cannot be contingent on intensive data collection or time intensive reporting/surveys (such as the GPRA).
- These funds must be paired with necessary policy changes, such as expanding Ohio's Good Samaritan Legislation and legalization of harm reduction tools like fentanyl test strips and sterile injection equipment.

Treatment & Harm Reduction

1. Implement multiple, well funded, peer run Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) and/or Drug User Health Hubs that operate using best practices and a need based model.
 - a. These centers should be developed using best practices and harm reduction philosophies. This may require state management in order to avoid challenges with "home rule authority".
 - b. Provide comprehensive mental health care at SSP's.
 - c. Provide funding for primary medical care providers, such as Equitas, to be on site anytime SSP is open.
 - d. Programs should provide a range of harm reduction supplies, including smaker smoking materials.
 - e. Offer facilities to shower, store belongings, and access laundry services.
 - f. Programs must be comfortable, beautiful, and pleasant to be at.
 - g. Remove all fears of criminalization so that people will access these health services. E.g. legalize fentanyl testing strips and decriminalize paraphernalia (including syringes) or provide comprehensive immunity for SSP participants.
2. Increase access to all FDA-approved forms of medication assisted treatment (MAT/MOUD), especially methadone.
 - a. Establish a methadone provider in Licking County.
 - b. Provide a shuttle to methadone clinics.
 - c. Provide childcare at methadone clinics.
 - d. Provide mobile methadone services.
3. Increase access to low barrier naloxone/Narcan and fentanyl testing strips through peer run programs that allow for secondary distribution.

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4. Purchase FTIR (fourier transform infrared spectroscopy) machines to allow community members to test their drugs before use. These machines should be made accessible at community based SSPs or Drug User Health Hubs, not law enforcement offices.
5. Expand access to compassionate wound care.
6. Open safe consumption sites to dramatically reduce overdose fatalities.

Parent-Centered Treatment and Support & Services for Children

1. Increase funding for kinship care so that families can stay together.
2. Create harm reduction based treatment facilities that allow participants to bring their children, families, and/or pets.
3. Provide educational scholarships for children who lost a parent to overdose.
4. Increase access to low barrier, quality, childcare with expanded hours.

Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice Involved Persons

1. Open multiple free legal clinics, where quality, experienced, lawyers provide a variety of legal support and counsel, including:
 - a. Criminal Law
 - b. Housing Law
 - c. Employment Law
 - d. Family Law
 - e. Expungement Services
2. Pair these legal clinics with Drug User Health Hubs.
3. Standardize drug courts based on best practices and participant evaluation.

Early Intervention and Crisis Support

1. Increase access to quality, affordable, low barrier, housing. Remove housing restrictions for those with drug related convictions and halt all drug related evictions.
2. Provide ample funding for grassroots outreach and harm reduction education, including funds that cover staff time and expenses for those who may not have 501c3 status.

Work Force

1. Pay people with lived experience (including people in active use) a living wage to run these programs.
2. Develop financial incentives and support for Black, POC, and/or LGBTQ+ providers to work at these programs, including health care professionals and lawyers.
3. Implement mental health and wound care training in clinicals for nursing programs.
4. Develop a leadership development program where those with lived experience are trained to offer expert coaching to medical professionals, first responders, and other care providers.