

Preventing Overdose & Increasing Access to Harm Reduction Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic



BRONX MÓVIL



PROJECT GOAL #1

Promote effective HIV/AIDS prevention strategies: participants (community leaders) will learn about HIV, transmission modes, PEP & PrEP; new safer injection practices that prevent HIV transmission; & treatment to prevent AIDS.

Promote effective hepatitis awareness, prevention & treatment: participants will learn about viral hepatitis, differences with non-viral hepatitis, modes of transmission, prevention methods & practices, biology of the virus, treatment modalities, new safer injection practices & techniques that prevent or reduce the possibility of hepatitis transmission.

PROJECT GOAL #2



PROJECT GOAL #3

Promote safer injection & wound care knowledge & practices: participants will learn about the principles of harm reduction & how they apply to safer injection, STDs & STIs; and how to do wound care, including bandage, cleaning & prevention of lesions.

Promote opioid overdose prevention: participants will learn about naloxone, how it works to reverse an opioid overdose & what are opioids/opiates as well as the diversity of drugs that are currently used or have been used in communities.

PROJECT GOAL #4





PROJECT GOAL #1

Expand mail-based harm reduction kits to include distribution of existing supplies to individuals in addition to clinics & organizations: work with partners to develop protocols & engage PWUDs, safely distribute supplies to mitigate risks of COVID-19 & bridge gap in services when caused by the pandemic.

Develop video-based educational tools to address limited ability to conduct in-person trainings & accessibility to online platforms in small rural communities: videos for PWUDs to reduce overdose, HIV & hepatitis C infection, & for providers to provide education around harm reduction principles & reduction of stigma towards PWUDs.

PROJECT GOAL #2

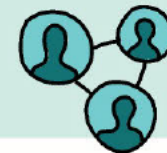


PROJECT GOAL #3

Integrate COVID-19 messaging within existing & new outreach, & educational tools & materials.

Work with existing partners to establish an Alaska Harm Reduction Network: collaborate on statewide harm reduction & opioid overdose prevention efforts, & develop & disseminate messaging, outreach & educational tools.

PROJECT GOAL #4





OVERARCHING PROJECT GOAL

Keep PWUD in rural & isolated parts of Pierce County alive & healthy.

Connect with & engage PWUD in harm reduction services: expanded, no-contact rural delivery of basic hygiene & other supplies.

PROJECT DETAILS



PROJECT DETAILS

Provide participants with the basic tools they need to protect themselves from COVID-19—& hygiene supplies: hygiene supplies can serve as a tool to form an initial connection or maintain an existing one & thus connect someone to other services, such as a peer counselor.



OVERARCHING PROJECT GOAL

Hire contractors & peer educators to staff HIPS' clinical mobile services vehicle to expand services for community members impacted most by COVID-19.

Provide mobile HIV/hepatitis testing & linkage to care, so any additional staff & peers funded by the grant would allow: provision of in-person, mobile appointments with clinical service providers who can prescribe MAT, offer syringe exchange services, & provide education on how to prevent & respond to overdoses.

PROJECT DETAILS



PROJECT DETAILS

Purchase prepaid phones to use with &/or provide to clients to help them connect more easily with service providers, including HIPS staff: this would help prevent individuals from being lost to care due to lack of adequate communication resources.

To summarize, the goals for this program would be to: meet people where they are & provide MAT on location; improve retention to clinical programs for people in care by increasing access to telehealth; increase access to mobile syringe exchange & overdose prevention services; conduct peer-led overdose response, harm reduction & other health-related trainings outdoors to allow for social distancing; & distribute PPE in high-risk communities.

PROJECT DETAILS





PROJECT GOALS #s 1-2

Mail-Based Supply Distribution: mail-based services, which have increased since the onset of the pandemic, support PWUD & lowans who do not reside in immediate service areas.
Local Deliveries: to support limiting social interactions for clients, increased local deliveries to immediate service areas & with greater financial support can continue to reach those affected by disruptions to public transportation or those without reliable access to personal vehicles.

Hotline: provide a 24/7 hotline to answer requests for deliveries; provide health & safety support; & provide overdose prevention support for individuals who use substances alone.

Case management support: work closely with health care & treatment providers to ensure continuity of care for those seeking medical & mental health care. The goal is to ensure more participants have access to at least 14-28 days of take-home medication to mitigate risk of frequent clinic visits & provide rides for participants when public transportation or personal vehicles are not available.

PROJECT GOALS #s 3-4



PROJECT GOALS #s 5-6

Outreach & service distribution: outreach-based peer distribution & establishing scheduled distribution in open-air areas; establishing service referral & incentive program which will encourage individuals to access program services, including HIV & hepatitis testing & treatment referral.

Online peer harm reduction support: refer people in recovery to online support communities, as most in-person support groups & recovery meetings remain suspended; continue to offer staff- & community-led virtual harm reduction peer-support meetings.

Volunteer training: offer 1-2 additional formal volunteer training sessions for new & active volunteers to support safer service provision during the pandemic & offer continuous support.

Community Outreach & Education: expand syringe access & diversify sources for sterile supplies; collaborate with health providers & behavioral health agencies to help participants access safe supplies, MAT, mental health services & hepatitis C/HIV treatment; email & social media advocacy; & provide up to 10 online naloxone trainings.

PROJECT GOALS #s 7-8



MAINE ACCESS POINTS

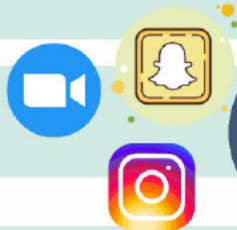


PROJECT OBJECTIVE #1

To distribute naloxone & syringe access supplies across the state of Maine through mail delivery & mobile delivery services over a 6-month period.

To increase access to overdose prevention across the state of Maine through mail delivery & mobile delivery services over a 6-month period.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE #2



PROJECT OBJECTIVE #3

To provide accessible harm reduction educational opportunities virtually through video streaming & social media.

To develop & implement monthly, virtual harm reduction drop-in hours for program participants.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE #4



PROJECT OBJECTIVE #5

To provide the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) alongside safer use supplies & naloxone kits to reduce the risk of COVID-19 among PWUD.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

MPHR created the LIGHT (Living in Good Health Together) Project, a harm reduction syringe access program, in 2015 to address north-central West Virginia's need for a Harm Reduction Program & a place for PWUD to find associated health care services. The LIGHT Project operates through an on-site syringe services program free clinic & four mobile SSPs.

Increase safe access to LIGHT harm reduction program through call-in & secondary exchange program: clients will call the clinic ahead of time so that they can provide information needed to have all of their supplies ready for distribution; staff & volunteers will have clients' information already documented, including the information for any secondary client exchange; COVID-19 prevention information will also be included with every harm reduction supply dissemination.

PROJECT GOAL #1

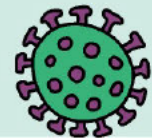


PROJECT GOAL #2

Reduce overdoses & overdose deaths among PWUD clients by distributing naloxone kits to high-risk areas: conducted by Peer Recovery Coaches who frequently visit high-risk areas such as "Diamond Village," a homeless camp that has seen almost 50 overdoses since the beginning of the pandemic; provide individuals with mental health, treatment & recovery options; collaborate with local correctional facilities to offer services to individuals that have recently been released & are looking to either continue MAT or receive other services. MPHR currently runs a Comprehensive Opioid Addiction Treatment program that includes Suboxone & Vivitrol treatments for clients.

Reduce & prevent COVID-19 among PWUD in the community by becoming a testing site: MPHR was approved by the state of West Virginia to host testing to the community. This is a major step, especially among the homeless population. Many of these individuals either can't find transportation to testing sites or they do not trust them.

PROJECT GOAL #3





NEXT Distro
STAY ALIVE, STAY SAFE.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Focus on building a resource hub to complement NEXT's pre-existing resources with an eye on longevity, functionality & the ability to support PWUD from across the country.

Resource Hub: NEXT has worked to build an online drug user Resource Hub (nextdistro.org/resources). This page includes a search function & specific content areas including COVID-19, safer injection, HIV/HCV, sexual health, parenting, drug treatment & more. By expanding this tool & fine tuning web indexing strategies, this Resource Hub will increase drug user health resource access using the internet: a space where most people are now consuming health education. With funding the Resource Hub will expand & focus on expanding offerings for Spanish-language speakers. After assessing areas where very little harm reduction resources are available, NEXT will connect with harm reduction specialists & provide honorariums for developing needed content.

PROJECT GOAL #1



PROJECT GOAL #2

Support Chat: NEXT will add a chat function to the website to provide referrals, care coordination & support to site visitors. The chat will allow NEXT to centralize participant questions & requests that come from individuals in vulnerable populations that do not know where to go to access fact-based non-judgmental support & may not be comfortable accessing support from NEXT as a formal participant. A chat function represents an evolution of NEXT's strategy to support PWUD & to connect them to in-person services in their own community. NEXT's online chat support function will enable staff to better understand the needs of site visitors.



PROJECT GOAL #1

Offer temporary low threshold employment to PWUD: This will be a financially beneficial opportunity for PWUD with limited alternative work options, & will also assist the organization with the surge in demand as staff have been stretched thin by increased responsibility. Temporary low threshold employment will allow PWUD to pursue stability while they develop the skills required for a long-term position.

Provide leadership development training: offering opportunities for personal & professional growth to those who join the organization; attending in-person or virtual conferences, completing skill building assignments & connecting with the network of harm reductionist experts.

PROJECT GOAL #2



Uber

PROJECT GOAL #3

Offer the tangible assets necessary for participants to develop professionally: offer participants the same tools to succeed as other, more privileged members of society utilize; lend computers & other needed supplies; pay for private transportation to work (Uber/Lyft), ensuring participants avoid exposure risks of public transit.

Build organizational infrastructure: NCSU have spent the last six months responding to issues as they arise; staff have been unable to put into writing the procedures developed during COVID-19. Successful achievement of these goals will connect participants to opportunities for employment & growth, develop outreach efforts to include peer-led strategies & assist with on-site distribution of supplies & services.

PROJECT GOAL #4





PROJECT GOAL #1

Expand SWAN's (Sex Workers & Allies Network) harm reduction services to fill gaps in service by bringing the Mobile Outreach Van (MOV) to additional neighborhoods & increased hours. The SWAN mobile outreach van is active for 25 hours/week. While the MOV has boosted outreach capacity, there is a need for a further increased presence, especially during evening hours. Additional funding will allow expansion of the schedule & increase availability to sex workers & PWUD during times of greatest need.

Maintain SWAN's syringe exchange through the COVID-19 pandemic, while linking PWUD to support & services.

One factor in the success of SWAN's syringe services is the ability to provide stipends to volunteers who collect syringes. The stipend compensates volunteers for taking on the risk of harassment from police. Increasing the capacity of SWAN's MOV will increase the collection of discarded syringes across the city, leading to increased positive public & individual health outcomes for all by reducing the likelihood of needlesticks & for PWUD by decreasing the re-use of syringes.

PROJECT GOAL #2



PROJECT GOAL #3

Provide safe ways for SWAN members to connect to community support & resources while following COVID-19 safety protocols. Because of unsafe conditions on the street & the stigma some experience when accessing street-based services, group meetings are for many the only time of the week when they are able to feel safe sharing their experiences & seeking support. Acknowledging the obstacles members face to get to these meetings, SWAN supports members' ability to attend by providing a stipend for participation. This grant funding will support SWAN's ability to provide these stipends, maintain small COVID-safe group sizes & provide PPE & COVID-19 safety information for participants.



PROJECT GOAL #1

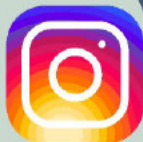
As the sole provider of Harm Reduction services for PWUD in Oklahoma, SHOTS Tulsa will utilize the funds to invest in & expand mail-based naloxone distribution across the state, concentrating on services to rural & tribal areas of Oklahoma. This will be achieved through consultations with the Oklahoma State Health Department, Muscogee Creek Nation Health Program, the Cherokee Nation & the North Tulsa Health Department. Collaborating with the aforementioned organizations will help SHOTS Tulsa reach areas in need of non-judgmental services for PWUD.

SHOTS believes that having low-barrier services is crucial for program success. SHOTS Tulsa can achieve increased naloxone distribution by purchasing naloxone & PPE with funds secured from Amerigroup Oklahoma. Every naloxone kit mailed out will also include PPE to empower participants with tools to protect themselves.

PROJECT GOAL #2



PROJECT GOAL #3



Statewide overdose prevention & education campaigns will be implemented through social media, advertisements & community partnerships. SHOTS Tulsa will continue to educate our communities on the need & positive outcomes associated with harm reduction programs, while working to end the stigma associated with PWUD.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The first strategy is a localized & expanded version of the national Never Use Alone line, & the second is building a streamlined system to mail harm reduction supplies across the state. Both resources will be available in English & Spanish. It has been difficult for public health & treatment providers to strike a balance between addressing critical substance use needs while also protecting individuals from possible COVID-19 transmission, but strategies work to accomplish this goal meaningfully & thoughtfully.

Although promoted & partnered with the national Never Use Alone line, the importance of establishing a local line will be enacted. This line will be staffed by a network of Arizona harm reductionists who know the ins & outs of local resources, including the nearest naloxone distributors. This line will accomplish the following: provide a safety net for those who use alone to receive emergency services if they become unresponsive; & provide referrals, resources & ongoing support to callers beyond the initial call.

PROJECT GOAL #1



PROJECT GOAL #2

Harm reduction by mail: SPW has partnered with NEXT Distro since 2018 to increase access to harm reduction supplies across Arizona. NEXT Distro works to connect individuals to local resources, so by creating a local system, it will be easier to learn more about PWUD through original data collection & analysis. Expansion will be offered of general harm reduction supplies, such as syringes & safe injection materials, safe smoking materials, fentanyl test strips & health & hygiene supplies.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The requested funds will allow SHRS to adapt & expand services in the COVID-19 context by supporting staff time for program development & outreach, & necessary PPE & hygiene/sanitation supplies. New activities will include:

Continually reviewing & updating the protocol changes made to adapt to COVID-19 to ensure best practices.

PROJECT GOAL #1



PROJECT GOAL #2

A training will be developed & delivered. Residents of the homeless encampments have been contacting SHRS for trainings on COVID-19, including caring for infected people.

If possible, ordering, distributing & educating on at-home rapid COVID-19 tests.

PROJECT GOAL #3





PROJECT GOAL #1

#1 goal is to be able to continue to supply the people who are sex workers & sex worker adjacent presently served at SWOP with harm reduction materials & continue to work to increase our services to more fully develop access for a vulnerable & traditionally underserved population. The number of volunteers will increase, for bag packing & distribution among current participants, & increase the number of stipends to current participants who demonstrate a desire to deliver supplies & support to people in their immediate community.

Increase the number of people tested & treated for HIV & hepatitis C: by picking up old & new partnerships with like-minded groups that had stopped doing mobile testing at the beginning of the pandemic & reengaging them in this vital work in the safest possible manner.

"Slow down" contactless deliveries & resume a more complete service provision: with safety protocols in place that includes food & the ability to do in-person HIV testing. The opportunity to serve a high calorie, carb-rich meal allows additional time to educate participants about harm reduction & safety protocols.

PROJECT GOALS #s 2-3



PROJECT GOALS #s 4-5

SWOP have collected an impressive amount of easy to read documents (in the form of zine) that makes harm reduction & overdose information easy to read & absorb. The goal is to disseminate more of these materials to participants.

SWOP currently distribute about 2000 boxes of Narcan per month into the hands of PWUD. The goal is to double that given expanded distribution area, & amplify Narcan dosing for clients so they know the right time to give Narcan—and when it isn't appropriate.

Increase the amount of COVID-19 prevention supplies in order to continue supplying vulnerable marginalized groups of people including sex workers & sex worker adjacent drug users. **Continue to work to expand the SWOP National Community Support Line** to provide more local resources in the communities that are served.

PROJECT GOALS #s 6-7



THE PERFECTLY FLAWED FOUNDATION



PROJECT GOAL #1

Increase access to harm reduction services & supports during the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing a schedule of mobile entry points, no-contact delivery options & mail-based services. Proposed activities include establishing a mobile Recovery, Wellness & Prevention Unit by purchasing & outfitting a minivan to meet with & engage PWUD throughout the community; establishing a schedule of mobile service delivery entry points & drop-off days throughout a rural area spanning >2000 miles; expanding mail-based & mobile no-contact delivery services; & enhancing text-based requests.

Reduce & prevent overdose & overdose death by increasing distribution of naloxone to PWUD. Proposed activities include providing nasal naloxone drop-offs via mobile recovery unit; conducting text-based outreach to PWUD to inform them of mail-based & no-contact delivery options; posting harm reduction flyers to businesses where PWUD frequent; & providing overdose rescue kits, which include nasal naloxone, to businesses where PWUD frequent, including head shops & public restrooms in bars & gas stations.

PROJECT GOAL #2



PROJECT GOAL #3

Reduce & prevent COVID-19 among PWUD & PWSUD. Proposed activities include distributing PPE & "COVID-19 Care Kits," which include over 20 personal hygiene items, via mobile drop-off & mail; & navigating PWUD & PWSUD to COVID-19 providers & testing resources via virtual peer support, phone support & text-based support.

Enhance outreach & increase linkage for PWUD to primary care, mental health services, evidence-based treatment for OUD & other SUDs, housing, employment & other social supports. Proposed activities include outfitting a mobile wellness vehicle with informational materials; enhancing digital content & social media material to provide no-contact list of resources; & navigating PWUD & PWSUD to COVID-19 testing resources via virtual peer support, phone support & text-based support.

PROJECT GOAL #4





PROJECT GOAL #1



Obtain a mobile health unit, outfit it with equipment & signage & utilize it at a minimum of once weekly during the project time period. The role of the mobile health unit will be to allow for confidential appointments, expanded wound care services & HIV/hepatitis C/STI testing. This will translate to space to carry more supplies to neighborhood drop-ins to allow for appropriate social distancing, & expand current drop-in locations.

Increase funds for shipping supplies to Trystereo By Mail participants, allowing for increased reach of the program & for additional monthly shipments to existing participants. At present Trystereo By Mail ships supplies within 1-4 days of request & once per month per participant. Participants are limited to once monthly shipments, but with additional funding will double the number of allowed shipments per participant.

PROJECT GOAL #2



PROJECT GOAL #3

Increase focused engagement with Trystereo By Mail program participants who answer yes to the enrollment question, "If we were able to give you naloxone for you to give out to people that you think should have it, would you be willing to distribute it?". Propose to launch a community health outreach worker pilot program among these participants. Participants will be surveyed at the beginning, middle & end of the 6-month program & will be given incentives for participating.

Ask participants reached by the new mobile outreach vehicle & the Trystereo By Mail programs about whether they receive enough supplies to meet their own needs & the needs of their drug-using social circles. Further, question participants about whether they are experiencing improved self-confidence & decreased loneliness by participating with Trystereo; & ask for feedback about the impact of the new initiatives, & adapt programming in response.

PROJECT GOAL #4

