

Request for Proposals: Reduce Drug-Related Harms Among Communities of Color

Informational Webinar

November 12, 2020

BEGINS AT 3:30PM

**Proposal submission
deadline: November 30, 2020**

Agenda

- Background
- Overview of RFP
 - Program Framework
 - Project Parameters
 - Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria
 - Timeline & Contact
- Questions

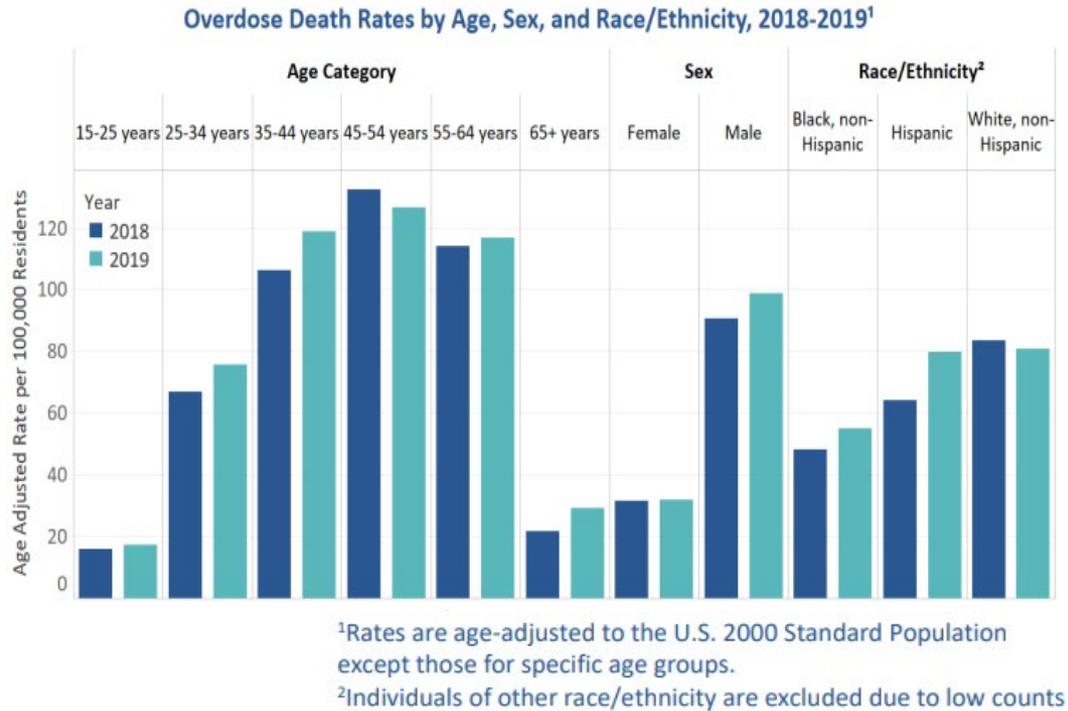
Please add questions to the Q & A box at any time. Note that all chat messaging, including 'private messages' will be seen on the recording transcript.

Background

- Vital Strategies is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies to offer comprehensive technical assistance and support for reducing overdose deaths in targeted states with high rates of overdose deaths
- Partnering with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health to support local community-based organizations (CBOs) and partnerships in addressing harms caused by the 'War on Drugs' on Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) populations.
- Community mobilization grounded in equity and inclusivity of people who use drugs and directly affected by the War on Drugs

Background

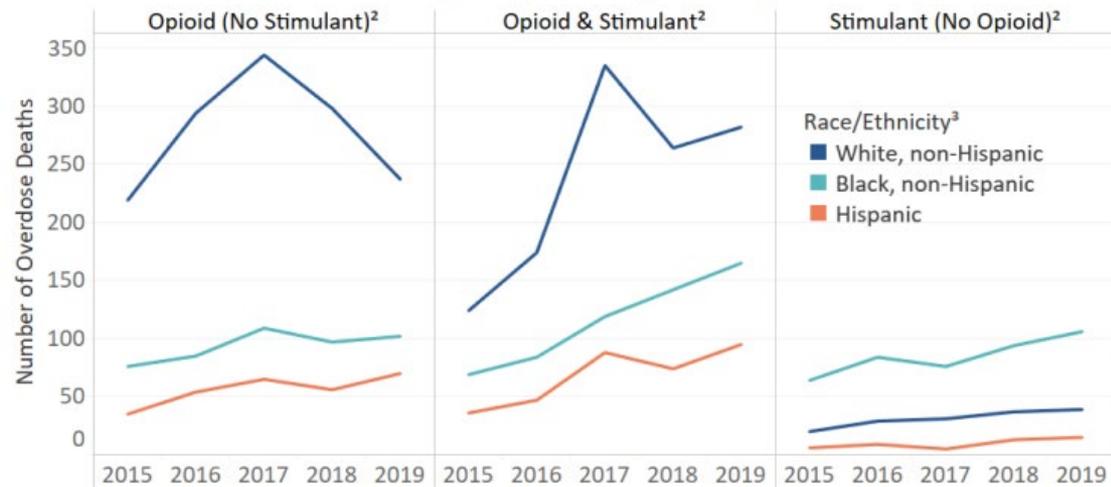
- In 2019, there were **1,150 people** who died from drug overdose deaths in Philadelphia
- From 2018 to 2019, rates of overdose increased among all age categories except those between the ages of 45-54 years.
- While the rate of overdose deaths decreased by 3% among white, non-Hispanic individuals from 2018 to 2019, the rate **increased among Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic individuals by 14% and 24%, respectively.**
- Rates of overdose death increased among males and were similar for females between 2018 and 2019.



Background

- For both Black, non-Hispanic individuals, the number of drug deaths has increased from 2018 to 2019 across all major drug grouping categories.
- Deaths involving stimulants alone occur predominately among Black, non-Hispanic individuals.
- Since 2017, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids without a stimulant has sharply declined among white, non-Hispanic individuals

Number of Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Drugs Involved, 2015-2019¹



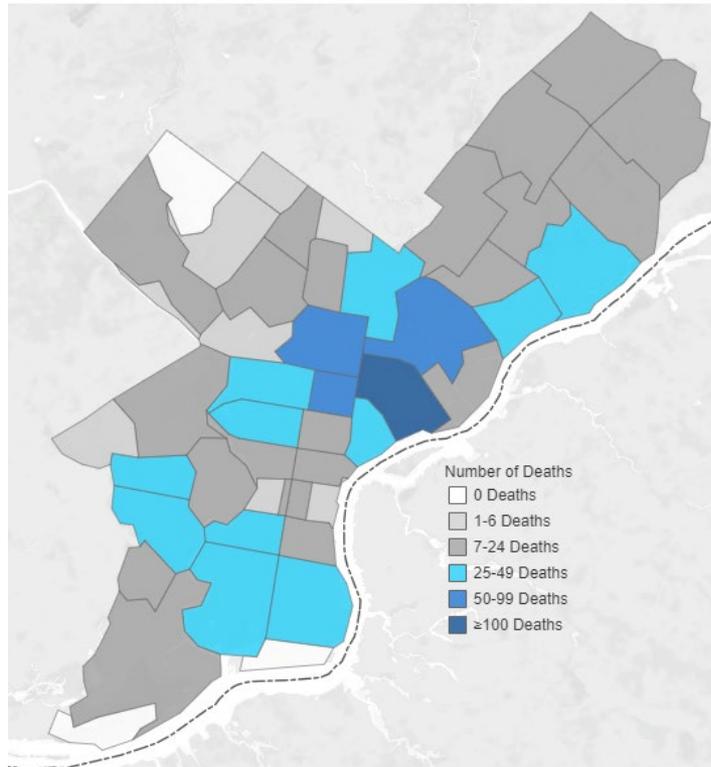
¹Drug Categories are mutually exclusive; excludes Other Drugs (No Opioid or Stimulant) because of low counts

²Additional drugs such as sedating drugs may have been involved

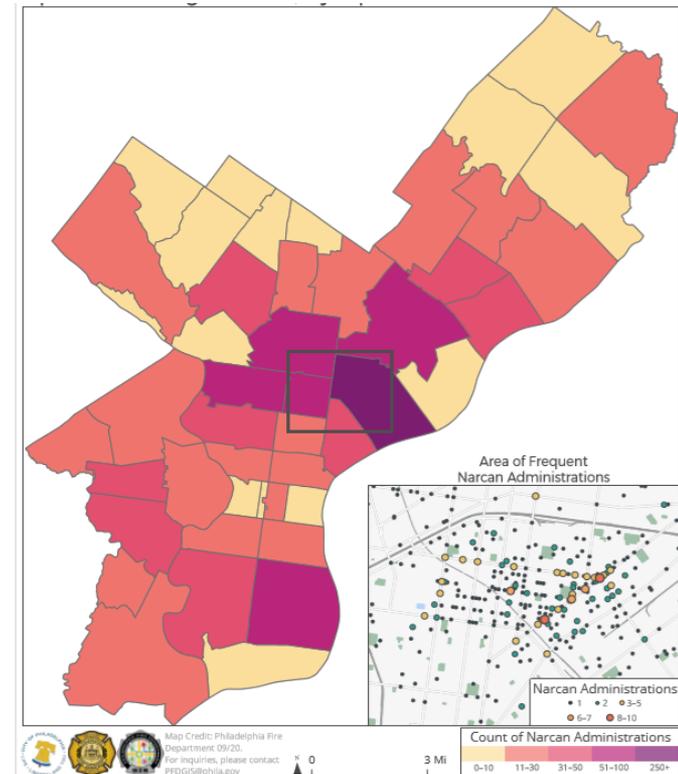
³Individuals of other race/ethnicity are excluded due to low counts

Background

Overdose fatalities by Zip Code, 2019, Philadelphia



EMS Naloxone administrations, 2019, Philadelphia

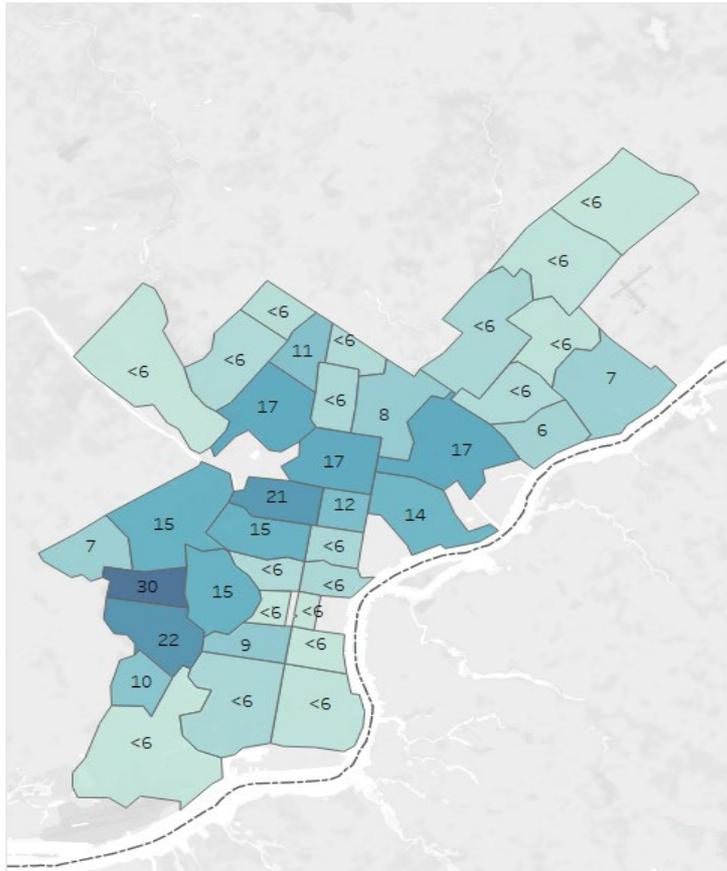


- Overdose hotspots exist in Kensington and South Philadelphia but overdoses are happening everywhere

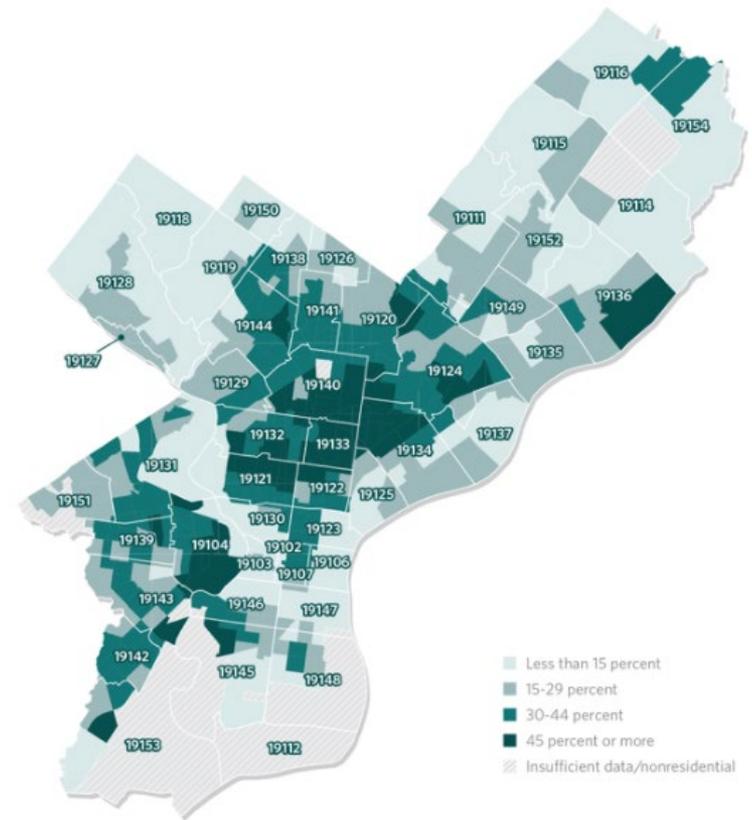
Background

Overdose fatalities by Zip Code, 2019, Philadelphia

Black, non-Hispanic



Percentage of individuals living below the federal poverty level



- Regions where Black non-Hispanic individuals are fatally overdosing overlap with regions of high poverty

RFP - Community Mobilization Projects for Harm Reduction Services

- \$50,000 is available per applicant
- One-time funding—non-renewable
- 9-month project period: January 2021 – September 2021
- Up to 5 awards will be given
- Allowable for wide range of community-based activities
- **Supporting projects that will address the harms of the racialized War on Drugs & are grounded in racial equity and harm reduction philosophy**

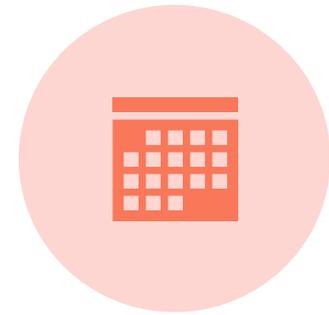
Timeline



APPLICATION DUE:
NOVEMBER 30, 2020



NOTIFICATION OF
SELECTION:
DECEMBER 7, 2020



ANTICIPATED PROJECT
DATE: **JANUARY 1, 2021**

Regarding COVID-19, we will monitor this changing landscape and make accommodations while supporting the progress of this work as best we can. Please feel free to share any concerns or questions at overdose@vitalstrategies.org

Program Framework

- **Harm Reduction:** Pragmatic public health approaches to
 - Minimize risk
 - Take precautions
 - Reduce negative consequences
- **Health Equity:** everyone has a fair opportunity to be healthy as possible, and promotes practices that aim to eliminate disparities in health and its determinants that affect marginalized groups
- **Racial equity:** eliminating racial disparities by applying strategies targeted to close the gaps in services access, delivery, and quality (Toolkit: <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/resources/racial-equity-toolkit-opportunity-operationalize-equity/>)

What do we mean by a harm reduction approach to drug use?

Pragmatic public health approach to **drug use**

- minimize risk
- take precautions
- reduce negative consequences



Priority organizations for funding consideration

- CBOs that are led by BIPOC OR collaborations between organizations in which at least one is led by a BIPOC
- CBOs or partnerships that individually or together serve communities that are majority BIPOC
- Supportive of a harm reduction approach to drug use
- Committed to addressing the root causes of social/racial injustice at a community-level
- Engaged with Philadelphia's most under-resourced neighborhoods
- CBOs **need not** have a work history of engagement in activities and issues related to drug use
- Organizations **need not** have 501 (c)(3) status to qualify, but must demonstrate sound fiscal record keeping for previous two years.

Primary expectations of awardees:

- Participation in the Racial Equity Harm Reduction Workgroup to be convened with awardees
- Participation of relevant project staff and/or members in minimum of two, half-day harm reduction trainings
- Execution of projects that work towards the advancement of Racial Equity in harm reduction and overdose prevention

Project examples

- **Community education and trainings**
 - *Series of events to expand community understanding of racial inequities driven by War on Drugs*
 - *Identify stakeholders and communities that are key targets*
 - *Develop content, objectives and agenda for change , including speakers and materials (flyers, factsheets, briefs)*
 - *Plan event most appropriate and accessible for target population – townhalls, webinar, teach-ins, etc*
 - *Develop and execute outreach plan*
- **Community organizing and base-building**
 - *Enhancing and expanding an existing network of residents, workers, constituents, etc. to identify and address barriers to care and supports for people who use drugs*
 - *Internal assessment and external community engagement to ensure inclusivity of people who use drugs in decision-making roles*
 - *Formulate partnerships with harm reduction organizations and other groups that are being led and powered by people who use drugs and other lived experiences*
 - *Engage in 'community consultations' to center and listen to the voices of PWUD and collaboratively develop agenda for change*
 - *Develop and execute plan to disseminate and advance agenda for change*
- **Assessment and capacity-building**
 - *Capacity-building in coalition work for coalition partners to understand and address drug-related inequities and center people who use drugs*
 - *Assessment of coalition/partner activities, gaps, strengths and identify opportunities to build enhance anti-racist, anti-stigma harm reduction actions, advocacy, and messaging*
 - *Invest in leadership and skills development for people who use drugs and lived experiences to lead, advocate, provide peer support and other meaningful roles in advancing drug policy work*
 - *Train peers in harm reduction methods, anti-racism frameworks, and other areas that enhance their capacity and ability to work with marginalized populations and BIPOC communities*
- **Direct services to impacted populations**
 - *Develop and expand racial equity oriented, community-targeted, harm-reduction services*
 - *Enhance understanding, training and support for peers, especially peers of color, and their role in direct services*
 - *Identify experts, develop content, and conduct trainings*
 - *Foster engagement for peer workers with each other and across organizations*
 - *Develop supports for peer workers, including professional development, grief support, recovery and harm-reduction support*

Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria

I. Cover page

II. Project Narrative

- a. Agency background
- b. Agency capacity and experience
- c. Scope of work
- d. Workplan
- e. Evaluation
- f. Letters of support (optional)

III. Budget



Fidelity to and commitment to harm reduction framework and health and racial equity approach,



Quality and clarity of the proposal



Reach and Impact



Sustainability and Continuity

Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria

Scope of Work

- a. Need statement
- b. Proposed project activities
- c. Resources needed
- d. Population to be served
- e. Geographic reach
- f. Racial equity approach
- g. Sustainability and continuity plan



Fidelity to and commitment to harm reduction framework and health and racial equity approach



Quality and clarity of the proposal



Reach and Impact



Sustainability and Continuity

Proposal Requirements & Selection Criteria

Racial equity approach

- Representation of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities in staffing and leadership
- Identify and address racial disparities
- Develop outreach and communication strategies to reach Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities
- Develop culturally responsive services and activities
- Develop and/or implement a plan to meaningfully increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and access for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people within the organization



Fidelity to and commitment to harm reduction framework and health and racial equity approach



Quality and clarity of the proposal



Reach and Impact



Sustainability and Continuity

Budget Parameters

- **Must be directly related to project activities** (not supporting indirect cost or providing general operating support)
 - Staff support
 - Direct assistance to individuals (e.g. stipends, fees and incentives)
 - Hiring of a consultant to develop or review policies and protocols for improvements to better serve people who use drugs, and
 - Event space and other costs (e.g. trainings, community engagement, etc.)
 - Equipment & supplies (including naloxone & syringes)*
 - Marketing and promotion for community engagement and patient education
 - Other operations support directly related to project (e.g. travel, office supplies, technology, printing/copying, etc.)

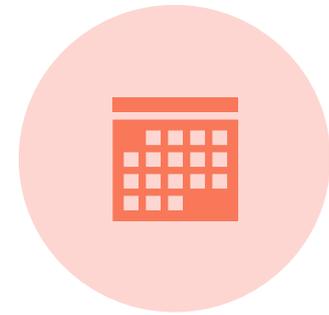
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Resources

- **Philadelphia Department of Public Health**
 - <https://www.substanceusephilly.com>
 - Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Unintentional Drug Overdose Fatalities in Philadelphia, 2019. CHART 2020.
<https://www.phila.gov/media/20200511105852/CHART-v5e4.pdf>
- **Racial equity**
 - **Racial Equity Alliance** - https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GARE-Racial_Equity_Toolkit.pdf
 - **Center for Social Inclusion** -
<https://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/our-work/what-is-racial-equity/>
 - **Racial Equity Tools** – Community Organizing Strategies -
<https://www.racialequitytools.org/act/strategies/community-organizing>
- **Harm Reduction and Drug Policy**
 - National Harm Reduction Coalition - <https://harmreduction.org/our-resources/>
 - Drug Policy Alliance – <https://www.drugpolicy.org/>

Thank you!

Please submit any additional questions to overdose@vitalstrategies.org or visit <https://www.vitalstrategies.org/request-for-proposals-to-reduce-drug-related-harms-among-communities-of-color>