



NH Project FIRST Overview

(First responders Initiating Recovery, Support, & Treatment)

Grant: First Responders: Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) made possible through SAMHSA. This is a voluntary program for first responder agencies in NH.

- 3.1 million dollars over a four year period. We are currently in year two of the performance period.
- 100% federal funding and no matching funds are required.

Purpose: This program uses a Hub and Spoke model and aims to reduce the number of opioid-related deaths, increase the number of first responders trained to administer naloxone, and increase the number of at-risk individuals on the road to treatment & recovery. In this program, first responders:

- Train and educate at-risk individuals affected by opioid use disorder (OUD) and their support systems on CPR (non-certified), rescue breathing, naloxone administration;
- Distribute emergency opioid overdose kits which contain naloxone, gloves, pocket mask, and information on the Good Samaritan Law;
- Share information on treatment, recovery, and social services with at-risk individuals & their support systems to link at-risk individuals and their support systems on the road to treatment & recovery.

*First Responders will receive Division-sponsored training that will enhance their understanding of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Compassion Fatigue, and learn how to connect with at-risk individuals and their support systems.

*There is flexibility on how an organization (first responders) implements the program:

- Follow-up Calls - follow-up visits after an overdose 24-72 hours post-overdose;
- Host Community Events - open to the public to learn about OUD and receive training on naloxone administration;
- Can be accomplished through overtime or specific position dedicated to the program;
- Quick Response Team - team of 2 or more responders from different area first responder/recovery entities -- follow up with at-risk individuals post-overdose (grant can only reimburse first responder activities).
- First responders can connect at-risk individuals and their support systems to various services such as support groups, healthcare agencies, social services, and faith-based groups.

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