

**FORE**

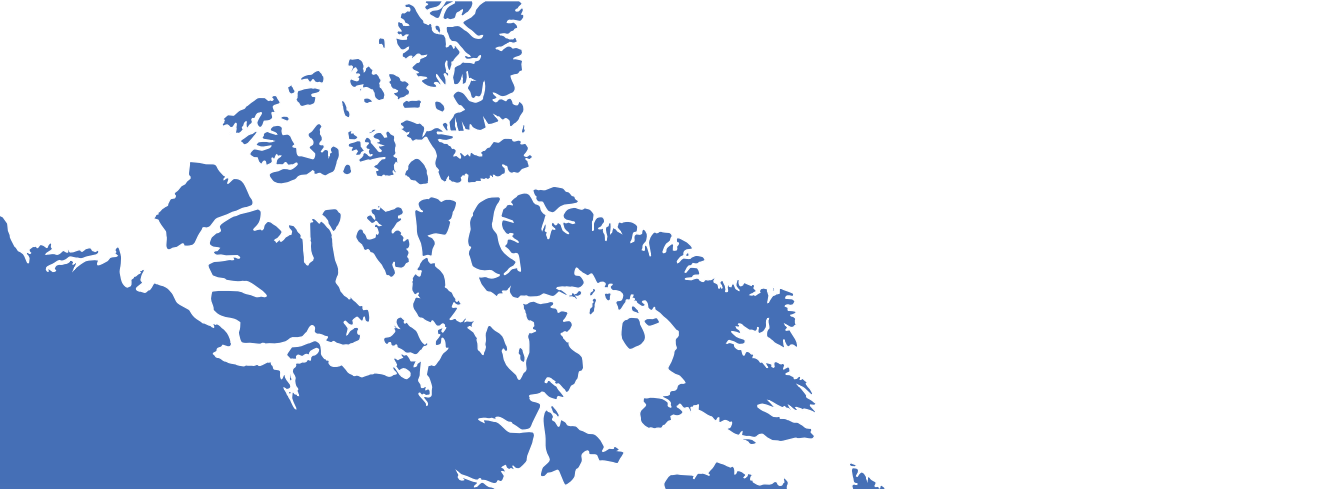
**5 Years of  
Accelerating  
Solutions**

# Our First Five Years

As the first national foundation to focus exclusively on the opioid crisis, FORE has charted a course for impactful grantmaking.

From the start, we committed to core principles. We would cast a wide net for ideas, prioritize efforts that take a holistic approach to addressing health and social needs, and advance equity and social justice. We also committed to being transparent in our grantmaking and to fostering collaboration among grantees and the wider field.

To guide our work, we've convened experts and people with lived experience to understand what's working and partnered with those who are tackling the most challenging issues. We're proud of what our board members, staff, advisers, and grantees have accomplished over five years, including engaging thousands of people in treatment, promoting long-term recovery, and spreading evidence-based approaches to preventing substance use disorders.



Grants  
awarded

100

Funds  
awarded

\$39 M

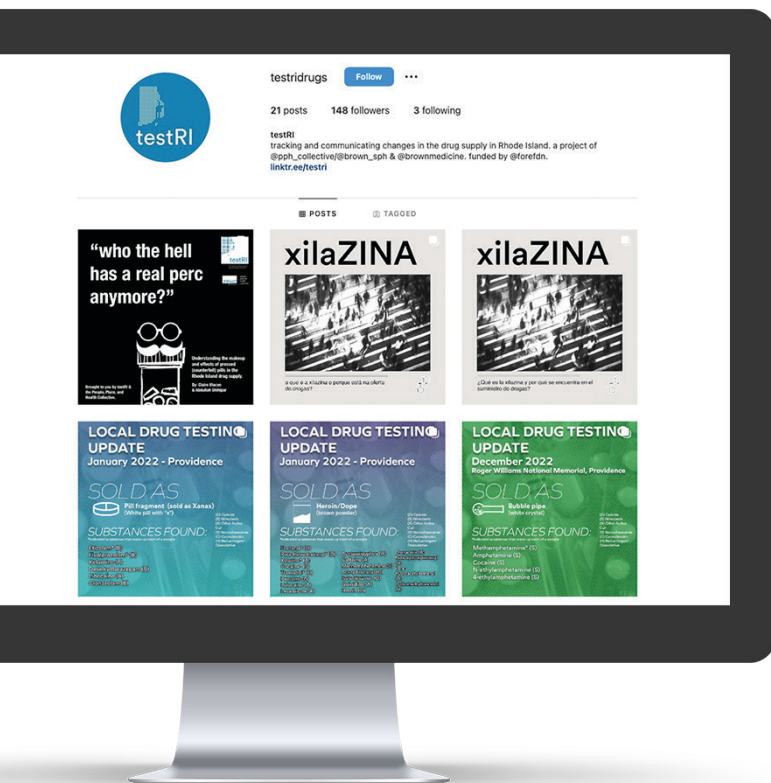




# 1 Casting a Wide Net



Project Venture, which engages youth in outdoor adventures, service activities, and leadership training, has been shown to prevent substance misuse and decrease depression, anxiety, and anger among Indigenous youth. *Photo: Project Venture*



Brown University School of Public Health researchers are partnering with the Rhode Island Department of Health and harm reduction organizations to collect and analyze drug samples. Results are published on the state's overdose data dashboard and social media. *Photo: testRI*

To tackle the opioid crisis, which continues to evolve along with an ever more toxic drug supply, we knew we needed innovative grantmaking strategies. We've elicited a range of ideas from different organizations and communities across the country through requests for proposals and other outreach. To date, we've reviewed more than 2,500 proposals, greatly expanding our understanding of unmet needs.

Each of our programs has been designed to take on a different aspect of this complex crisis. In 2021, we launched an Innovation Program to find new solutions to longstanding challenges. Led by multidisciplinary teams, some projects are gathering timely, actionable data on the drug overdose crisis. Others are piloting creative training approaches for clinicians and faith leaders to reduce stigma and build empathy for people coping with addiction.

In seeking to prevent substance use, we've learned from what hasn't dissuaded young people from trying substances, like scare tactics and moralizing appeals. Instead, we're supporting community-based prevention programs that have strong evidence of effectiveness and involve parents, schools, and health care providers. Grantees in our Family- and Community-Based Prevention Program are working not just to prevent substance use disorders, but to prevent the traumatic experiences that can fuel substance use.





# 2

## Promoting What Works

400

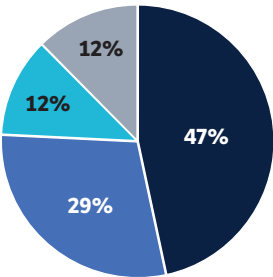
people with lived experience of  
opioid use disorder shared their  
stories with FORE grantees

We're filling a crucial need for information on what's working to help people with substance use disorders recover. Our publications, tools, and webinars draw on what our grantees are learning and reach a broad audience of policymakers, advocates, community organizations, clinicians, and people with lived experience.



In June 2023, we released a survey — the first of its kind — exploring the motivations, experiences, and challenges of more than 1,100 peer recovery coaches across 11 states. Learning what makes peers effective in helping people recover from opioid use disorder and what supports they need to sustain their work provides valuable information to inform workforce policy.

**Q: Thinking ahead five years, how likely is it that you will still be a PRC in 2027?**



- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely



Kaitlin Callahan, CIPSS, a recovery partner and navigator at Maine Behavioral Healthcare in Rockland, Maine, uses her experience of substance use disorder to help others recover. Watch an interview on YouTube at [bit.ly/kaitlin-callahan](https://bit.ly/kaitlin-callahan).



# 3

## Building Bridges

4,611

providers trained by FORE  
grantees to screen patients  
for substance use disorder  
and provide treatment



We're building a community of practice around opioid use disorder — breaking down siloes between substance use providers and primary care, maternity, emergency medicine, and other clinicians who can identify patients and connect them to treatment and recovery supports. We've focused on reaching those who often struggle to get help and are at high risk of overdose, including pregnant and parenting people, rural residents, and those in Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

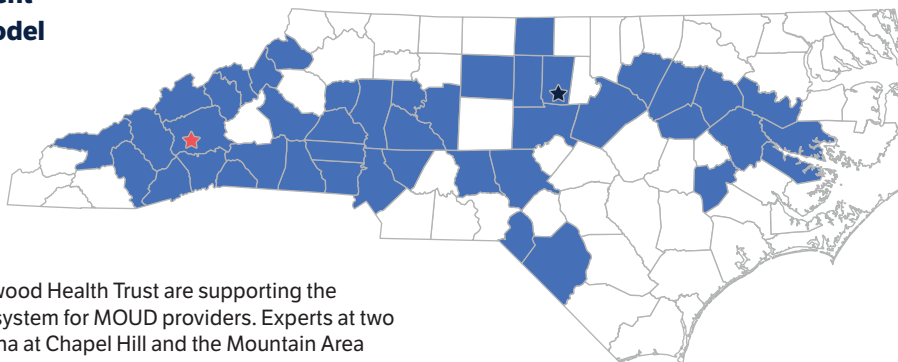
Recognizing the need for holistic approaches, we've also fostered partnerships among health care providers and those in other sectors. Our grantees are collaborating with people in the corrections and criminal justice sectors, Women, Infant, and Children's programs, housing programs, schools, community organizations, and others.



U.S. Rep. David Trone, University of Maryland grantees, and FORE staff visited the Allegany County Detention Center in Cumberland, Maryland, in April 2022 to see firsthand a FORE-funded pilot using telemedicine to deliver medications for opioid use disorder to inmates at several rural detention centers. *Photo: FORE*

### UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC: Expanding access to treatment through a hub-and-spoke model

- ★ UNC Psychiatry Clinic Hub
- ★ Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) Hub
- 43 counties served by the hubs



In North Carolina, FORE and the Dogwood Health Trust are supporting the development of a statewide support system for MOUD providers. Experts at two hubs — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), an academic health center based in Asheville — are lending oversight and support to primary care clinicians, behavioral health clinicians, nurses, and other staff at 13 community health centers and two local health departments (the spokes) that serve rural, low-income communities.



# 4

# Informing Policy

Nearly **40**  
journal articles published  
by FORE grantees

Through meetings, webinars, and other convenings, we're creating opportunities for policymakers and other leaders to explore effective models and the policies needed to sustain and spread them. The Bipartisan Policy Center convened experts — including a former surgeon general, a former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and former members of Congress from both sides of the aisle — to develop recommendations for deploying federal funds to combat the opioid crisis.

We're also supporting the National Academy for State Health Policy to help states implement policies and leverage funds to prevent substance use disorder and promote treatment and recovery.

FORE grantees have published nearly 40 journal articles, contributing to research and policy discussions.



# 5

# Responding to the Field

# 22

grants to help community-based organizations build capacity

We continue to learn from and respond to people on the frontlines of the opioid crisis.

To make funding accessible to small, community-based organizations, we put out a request for proposals for capacity building, rather than support for discrete projects. Our Community-Driven Responses to Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose Mortality program, launched in 2023, is supporting 22 community-based organizations that — despite modest budgets — are providing lifesaving prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services. These funds are enabling them to hire staff, adopt new technology, or otherwise sustain and build their work.





# Moving Forward

We continue to learn and evolve along with the opioid crisis. We've expanded our focus on increasing access to treatment to include pharmacies, as we learned that patients commonly face roadblocks when they try to fill prescriptions for medications for opioid use disorder. The rapid increase in overdoses among youth has prompted us to focus on prevention and early intervention efforts involving children and parents.

In the years to come, we will continue to identify emerging opportunities and lift up people who are often overlooked. Our board members and staff know we cannot do this work alone; we will build partnerships and cast a wide net to meet our goal of saving lives and rebuilding communities.

To learn more about our work, see our Annual Reports at [forefdn.org/financial-reports](https://forefdn.org/financial-reports)

 **Foundation for  
Opioid Response Efforts**  
**5 Years of Accelerating Solutions**

**forefdn.org**

*The board and staff of the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts thank our advisors, reviewers, applicants, and grantees.*

## COVER PHOTOS (FROM TOP)

### Front cover

Rev. Eugene Jacobs at Alabama's Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention trains other faith leaders in ways to help people struggling with substance use disorder.

University of North Carolina's Jenna's Project helps women like Victoria McWhorter maintain their OUD treatment after they leave prison and reunite with their children.

CA Bridge has helped train ED clinicians to initiate medications for OUD at more than 150 hospitals across California and is providing tools to hospitals in many other states.

A lab at UNC Chapel Hill tests drug samples collected from organizations like Holler Harm Reduction and publishes the results on [www.streetsafe.supply](https://www.streetsafe.supply).

### Back cover

To prevent substance use and alleviate depression and anxiety, Project Venture engages Indigenous youth in outdoor adventures, service activities, and leadership development.

Dalene Beaulieu of the University of Washington is training opioid treatment providers to adopt substance use prevention programs.

*Photos courtesy of grantees and Pearson Ripley.*