Foundation *for* Opioid Response Efforts

INSPIRE AND ACCELERATE

FORE is a national, private, grantmaking foundation focused on inspiring and accelerating action to end the opioid crisis. We are committed to convening and supporting partners advancing patient-centered, innovative, evidence-based solutions to make the greatest impact on the opioid crisis.

Bringing Innovation Solutions to the Opioid Crisis

While much effort, resources, and funding has gone to addressing the nation's opioid crisis, we continue to be faced with a national crisis of opioid-related addiction which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. One underlying reason for this may be that there continues to be long-standing challenges which may be limiting our ability to make as much progress as hoped for, even after two decades of growing public attention and increased available government funding. These challenges include (but are not limited to) the ongoing stigma of addiction, generating timely and actionable data, having adequate capacity of and equity in the health care system, and limited holistic responses that collaborate across different sectors.

FORE has awarded over $5million to organizations that are working to explore and/or evaluate new "outside-the-box" ideas, bring together approaches from several diverse fields, and engage multi-disciplinary, cross-sector teams to solve some of the crisis' most intractable problem. Grants to-date with this focus include:

- **Brown University** (Providence, RI) is combining ethnographic fieldwork with comprehensive toxicological testing to track the complex and evolving nature of the illicit drug market and polysubstance use at the street level, and will be testing different methods of alerting the public and officials about supply safety.
- **Friends Research Institute Inc. (Baltimore, Maryland)** is developing and evaluating trainings for healthcare providers and officials to address legal, scientific, and ethical aspects of reporting pregnant people with opioid use disorder to the child welfare system and to promote evidence-based treatments.
- **Hektoen Institute of Medicine (Chicago, Illinois)** is tailoring and piloting a Substance Use Coercion Toolkit for opioid use disorder treatment settings to help women experiencing intimate partner violence and substance-use coercion, and will create an implementation package for wider adoption.
- **Medical College of Wisconsin** (Milwaukee, WI) is combining precision epidemiology, advanced geospatial analysis, and data-guided community engagement to identify neighborhood characteristics that influence overdose deaths and recovery.
- **Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx, New York)** is developing and disseminating two evidence-based toolkits to help patients and physicians use urine drug screening in a therapeutic rather than punitive manner, specifically aiding those in buprenorphine treatment settings to avoid severe consequences like treatment discontinuation and family separation.
- **Temple University** (Philadelphia, PA) is creating a roadmap for better governance of the opioid crisis by developing an open-access data portal that publishes policy briefs and tracks, scores, and ranks laws and policies related to opioid use disorder and overdose deaths.
- **Tufts University** (Lowell, MA) is testing a new, rapid, large-scale surveillance system to detect opioid-related incidents using emergency medical services (EMS) and public health data in order to alert community stakeholders if overdose rates are rising.
- **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Inc. (North Dartmouth, Massachusetts)** is creating and evaluating a simulation-based training program to help nursing students build empathy for patients with opioid use disorder.
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** is developing and piloting laboratory protocols to allow university and public health laboratories to test samples of drugs over time to get an on-the-ground picture of the drug supply, enabling local stakeholders to disseminate information and issue timely drug alerts.
- **Weill Cornell Medicine (New York, NY)** is developing a virtual role-playing tool to assess and improve physicians' attitudes and empathy toward patients with opioid use disorder, which will be piloted among medical students.