



Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts

FORE is a national 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.

Rural Health

One in five people in the United States live in rural areas. Rural communities have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid and overdose crisis, with four in ten (42%) people living in rural areas reporting they or a family member have experienced opioid addiction compared to smaller shares of those living in suburban (30%) or urban (23%) areas.

Higher levels of stigma, shortages of trained providers, and fewer non-medical supports create significant barriers to care. As a result, many people in rural communities face greater challenges in accessing the treatment and services needed to prevent overdose and support recovery.

FORE grantees are finding innovative ways to reach people affected by opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose in rural communities and expand access to treatment and recovery supports.

FORE grants to-date with a focus on rural health include:

- **Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue Services** has trained 600 EMS staff to respond to overdose calls with knowledge and compassion, and created the Community Outreach Support Team (COAST) to pair community paramedics with peer recovery specialists for post-overdose follow-up care.
- **The Center for Counseling & Consultation** hired a Substance Use Program Director to expand community-based OUD treatment in Kansas and became a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC), allowing them to access additional resources to deliver rural healthcare services.
- **Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health** is piloting Lakota Equine-Assisted Therapy and traditional healing practices to improve health outcomes for Indigenous adolescents with OUD in South Dakota.
- **Morgan County Partnership** created a network of community and school-based services that identifies and supports children experiencing ACEs and families impacted by substance use in West Virginia.
- **The Martinsburg Initiative** has trained more than 3,000 teachers, health care providers, and law enforcement officers in West Virginia to identify young people who have experienced trauma and refer them – along with their families – to school-based social workers.
- **Project Venture** is scaling and evaluating culturally-informed, strengths-based prevention education and a community-wide prevention coalition for youth on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
- **Simply Hope Family Outreach** fosters community resiliency by offering a continuum of holistic social supports for youth and families in Idaho impacted by OUD. Their Safe Teen Assessment Center now screens more than 300 children and youth each year for substance use and behavioral health needs.
- **University of Maryland** leverages telemedicine capabilities to deliver MOUD to people incarcerated in rural detention centers in Maryland and ensure continuity of care in the community upon reentry.
- **University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center** uses the Project ECHO model to train staff in school, medical, and community settings to prevent and treat OUD and trauma in children and adolescents.
- **University of North Dakota** created Don't Quit the Quit, a program that improves access to perinatal recovery services through training for clinical providers, doulas, and WIC program staff.

For more information, please visit FOREfdn.org and   @FOREfdn.