

Public Health Awards Funds to Locals to Address Prescription Opioid Crisis

In response to the national Opioid epidemic, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and state partners launched a state agency Prescription Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Workgroup (Workgroup) in 2014. Under the current Director and State Public Health Officer, Dr. Karen Smith, the Workgroup shares information and develops collaborative prevention strategies to curb prescription drug overdose deaths and addiction in California. Additionally, the Workgroup provides a platform for state entities working to address opioid overdose and addiction to improve coordination and expand joint efforts. To visit the Workgroup website, please visit cdph.ca.gov/Pages/OpioidMisuseWorkgroup. The Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention (PDOP) Initiative funded by the CDC grants supports and facilitates the statewide Workgroup and four Taskforces.



In addition to supporting the work of the Statewide Workgroup and four Task Forces, PDOP staff engages with an array of local and state partners working on the opioid overdose epidemic. Current PDOP Initiative activities include promotion of prescribing guidelines, education to providers and payers, conducting a policy environmental scan, contracting, funding, and providing technical assistance to the local health departments and partners working to address the opioid crisis.

In March 2017, the CDPH Safe and Active Communities Branch announced that it will be awarding 12 local coalitions funds to address opioid misuse, overuse, and addiction. These awardees will be implementing comprehensive local opioid safety coalition activities beginning June 2017 through February 2019. The awardees include:

- Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County
- Mendocino County Health and Human Services
- Siskiyou Community Services Council
- County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department
- San Diego County Medical Society
- L.A. Care Health Plan
- Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society
- Plumas County Public Health Agency
- California Health Collaborative
- Butte County Public Health Department
- Marin County Department of Health and Human Services
- Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association Community Health Foundation

Statewide Opioid Policy Conference in San Diego – November 9-10, 2017

CDPH along with the California Health Care Foundation, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) – San Diego & Imperial Counties, Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth (CADFY), and Rx Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF) – San Diego County are facilitating a conference to share information, identify critical issues and emerging trends, and proposed policy goals to reduce opioid related deaths in California. Dr. Karen Smith, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer, will be the key note speaker at the first plenary session to provide a “state of the State” to outline current work underway, progress and opportunities around the opioid epidemic. The conference aims at bringing together stakeholders from public health, law enforcement, healthcare, prevention, drug treatment, education, as well as policy makers and interested community advocates.