

# OPIOID RECOVERY REMEDIATION FUND (ORRF) INFORMATIONAL SESSION

The City of Springfield's Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS) is committed to addressing the opioid crisis with a data-driven and community-centered approach. Our mission extends beyond simply dispersing Opioid Recovery Remediation Funds. We aim to allocate resources strategically and equitably, guided by the voices and needs of our community.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this process; including planners, designers, survey respondents, key informant interviewees, and focus group participants. Your insights have been instrumental in shaping our work and will undoubtedly contribute to comprehensive outcomes. We deeply appreciate your time, effort, and collaboration.

We would also like to express our appreciation to **Mayor Domenic J. Sarno** and his administration for their ongoing support of the **Springfield Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS)** and our collective efforts to address the opioid crisis in Springfield.

SDHHS TEAM	<b>Helen Caulton-Harris</b> <i>Commissioner of SDHHS</i>	<b>Ann Kissel</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner of SDHHS</i>	<b>Justin Chellman</b> <i>Opioid Response Program Manager</i>	<b>Dr. Frank Robinson</b> <i>SDHHS Consultant FDR and Associates</i>
GSOCC PLANNING AND DESIGN TEAM	<b>Magda Colon</b> <i>Learn to Cope</i>	<b>Nellie Maldonado</b> <i>Tapestry Health</i>	<b>Pedro Alvarez</b> <i>Tapestry Health</i>	
	<b>Ashley Bellio</b> <i>Behavioral Health Network</i>	<b>Patrick Meuse</b> <i>Mercy Medical Center</i>	<b>Richard Johnson</b> <i>New North Citizens Council</i>	



# PURPOSE

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## Health Equity Statement:

The SDHHS advocates for accessible substance use treatments, including MOUD, psychosocial interventions, and harm reduction. However, disparities persist for Black, Indigenous, people of color, rural residents, LGBTQ+ individuals, youth, and others. To promote health equity, SDHHS prioritizes funding programs that enhance access and address root causes like racism and poverty, while adhering to the MA Department of Public Health's racial equity principles and national CLAS standards.



## Agenda and Objectives:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Process Review
3. Background Data
4. Opioid Recovery Remediation Fund (ORRF)  
Focus Areas
5. Criteria for Proposed Projects
6. Application Process & Timeline
7. Grant Selection Criteria
8. Question & Answer Session

# OUR TIMELINE

**May 2019**

The Greater Springfield Opioid Crisis Coalition (GSOCC) was formed and is led by the SDHHS in response to state data highlighting the disproportionate impact of the opioid crisis on Springfield.

**May 2022**

The JSI Report reveals barriers to accessing services and experiences of racism in substance use and recovery services, impacting overall full recovery.

**November 2022**

The SDHHS establishes the Opioid Response Program Manager role, and Justin Chellman is recruited to assume the position.

**April 2024**

SDHHS launches ORRF project to collect community data and prioritize fund allocation based on feedback.

**November 2024**

The SDHHS issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) that reflects insights gathered from the community engagement process.

**June 2021**

SDHHS launches JSI data collection and report initiative.

**July 2022**

Massachusetts participates in national financial settlements with various companies to address damages from the opioid epidemic. 40% of the funds will go to local municipalities, and 60% to the statewide ORRF. Springfield will receive a minimum of \$7 million over 15 years, with the first payment.

**March 2024**

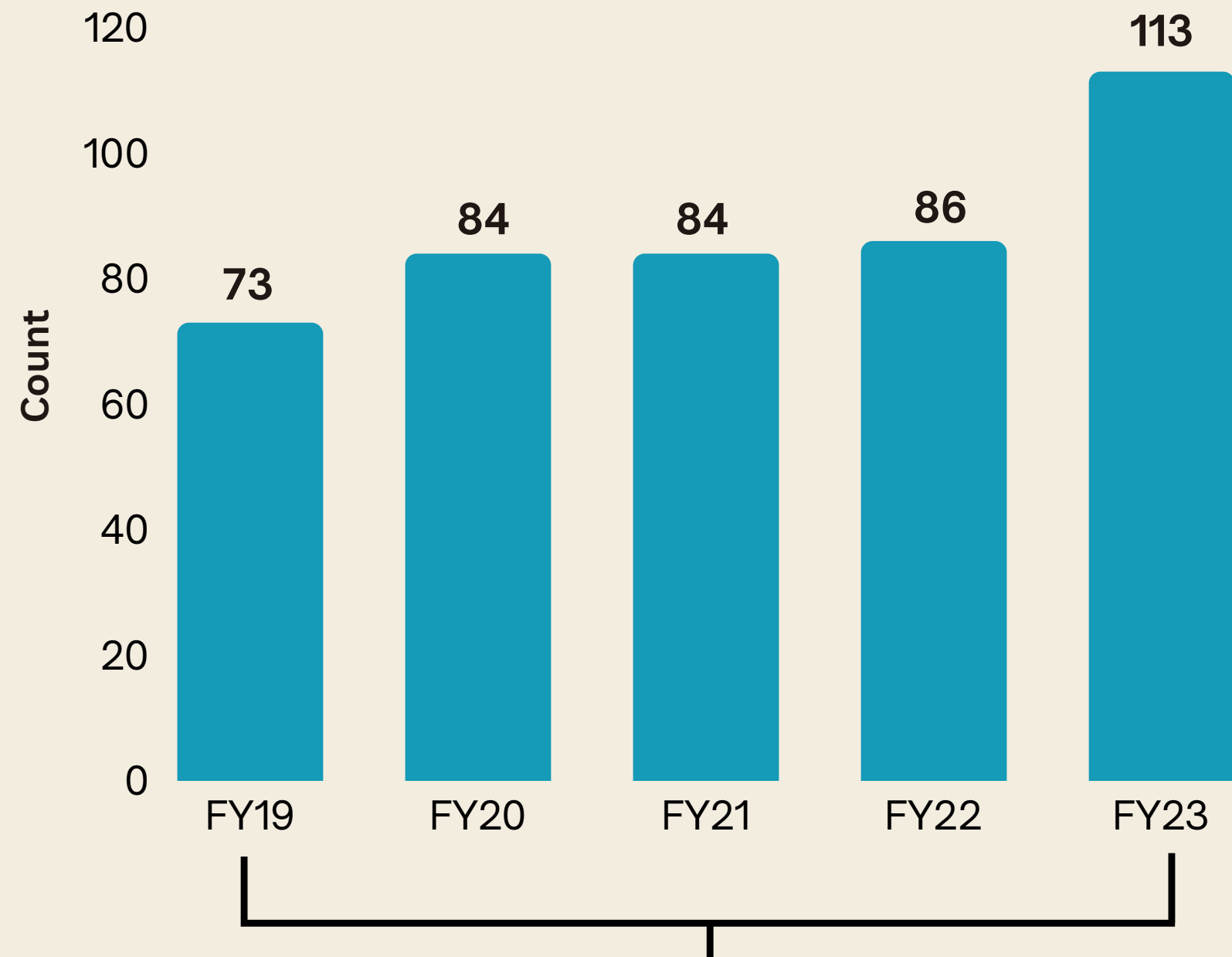
The Springfield City Council has approved transferring funds from free cash to a special account for allocation.

**August 2024**

SDHHS organizes ORRF forum to share findings with stakeholders and discuss how to use funds for further action.

# BACKGROUND DATA

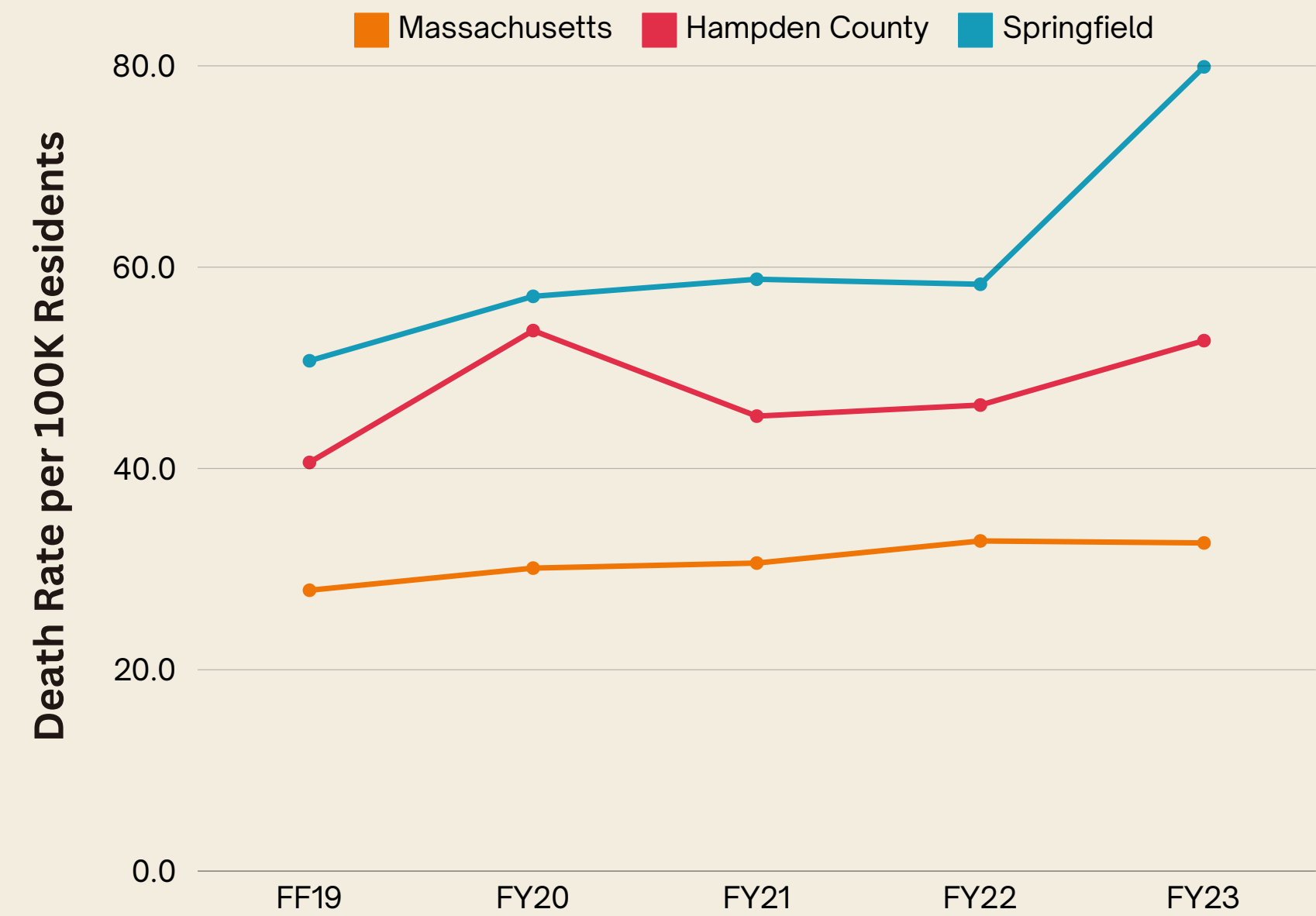
### Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in Springfield



Opioid-related overdose deaths in Springfield increased by 55% from FY19 to FY23.

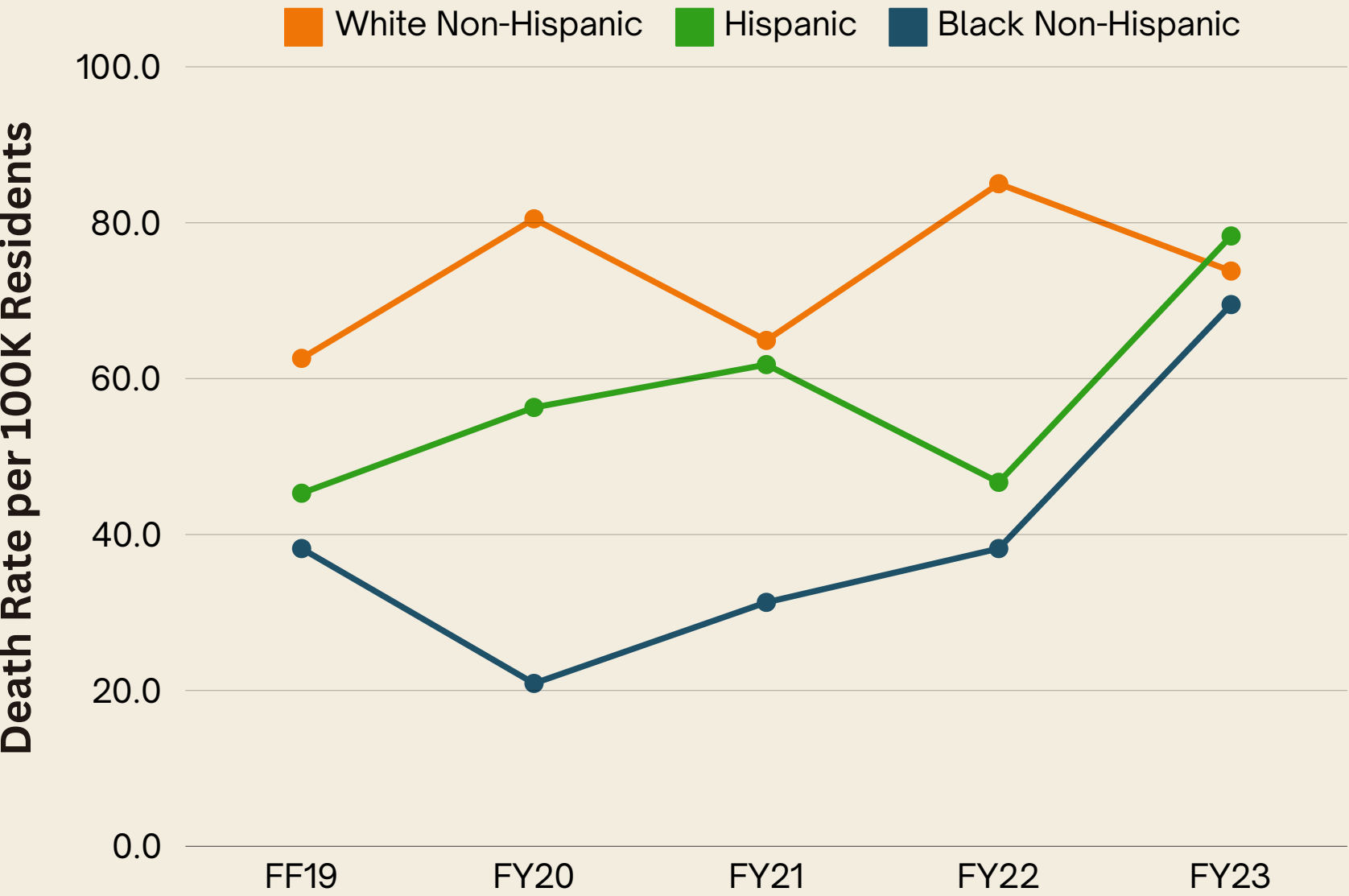
Between FY22 and FY23, Springfield saw a 37% rise in opioid-related overdose death rates, while Hampden County experienced a 16% increase, and there was no change in Massachusetts.

### Age-adjusted Rate of Opioid-related Overdose Deaths



# BACKGROUND DATA

Rate of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in Springfield



Opioid-related overdose death rates rose among Hispanic individuals by 68% and Black Non-Hispanic individuals by 82% in Springfield over the past two reported years but decreased by 13% among White Non-Hispanic individuals.

MASSACHUSETTS

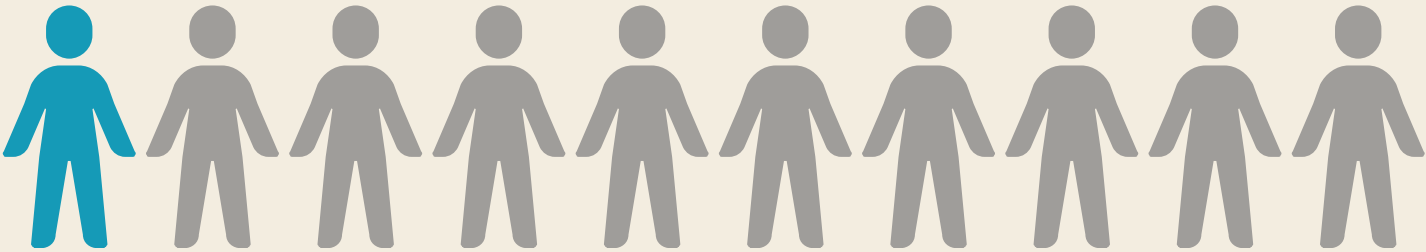
## Mass. opioid overdose deaths declined 10% in 2023, state says

The fatality rate decrease represents the "largest single year decline in opioid-related overdose deaths we've seen in 20 years," Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein said

By Alison Kuznitz • Published June 12, 2024 • Updated on June 12, 2024 at 10:28 am



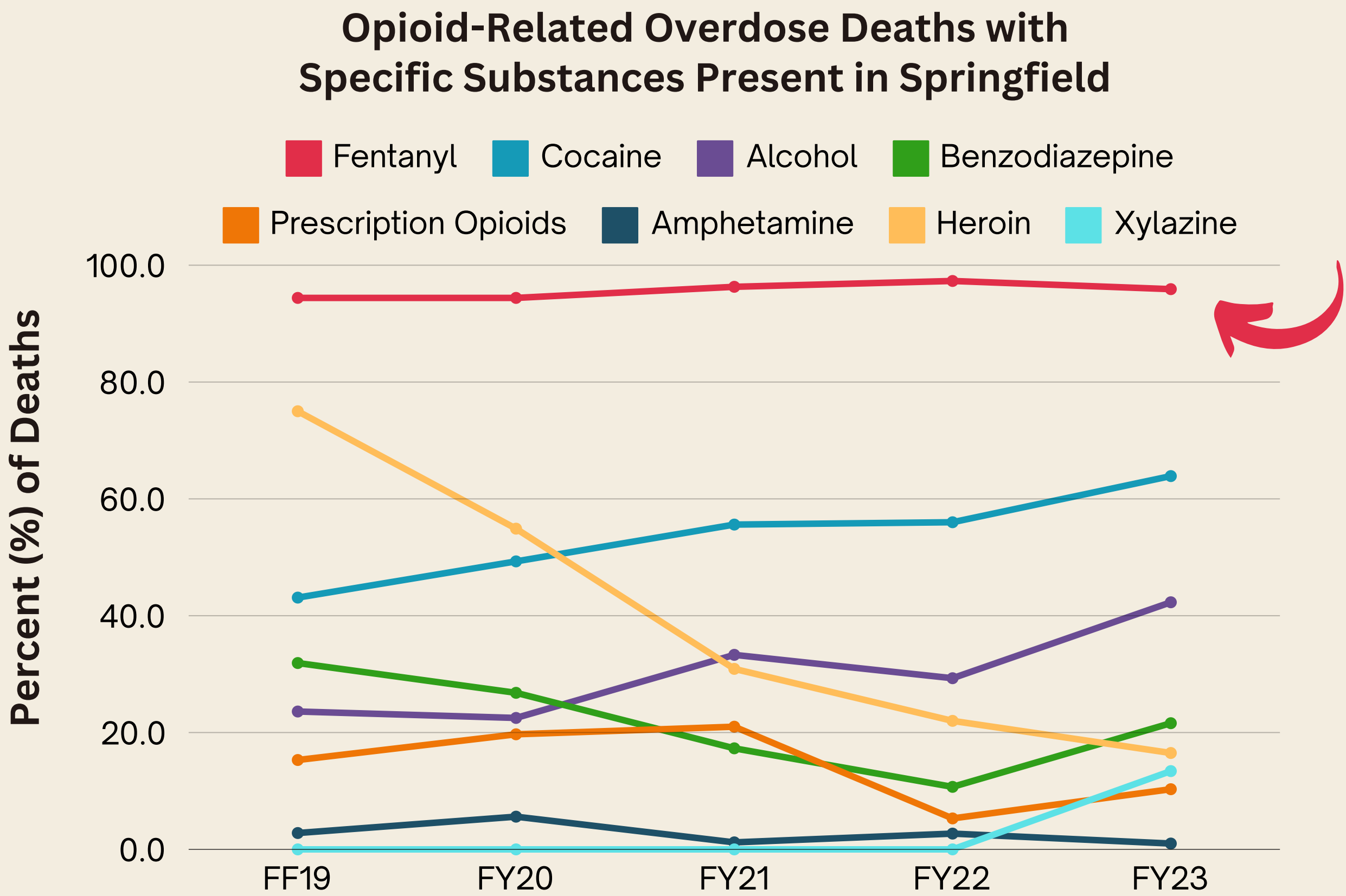
In FY23, 10.9% (87 out of 801) of any deaths among male residents of Springfield were opioid-related overdoses (women=3.9%).



\*\*Data on death rates for race/ethnicity groups with fewer than 4 instances are omitted due to the limited number of cases (not included: Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic, American Indian / Alaska Native non-Hispanic, and Other Non-Hispanic).



# BACKGROUND DATA



In FY23, 85.8% of opioid-related overdose deaths in Springfield had a toxicology screen available. In FY23, fentanyl was present in 95.9% of opioid-related overdose deaths that had a toxicology screen available among residents of Springfield.

### What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a highly potent synthetic opioid, up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Most of the fentanyl involved in overdoses is illegally manufactured and distributed, often mixed with other drugs to increase potency and profitability. This dangerous practice has led to a dramatic increase in overdose deaths and addiction.



“Our strategy includes gathering and incorporating recent and pertinent opioid-related studies, while prioritizing community feedback. This will guide the careful distribution of Opioid Recovery Remediation funds.”

- COMMISSIONER HELEN CAULTON-HARRIS

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455

Survey Respondents  
from June 7th - July 1st

28

Key Informant Interviews

4

Focus Groups

19

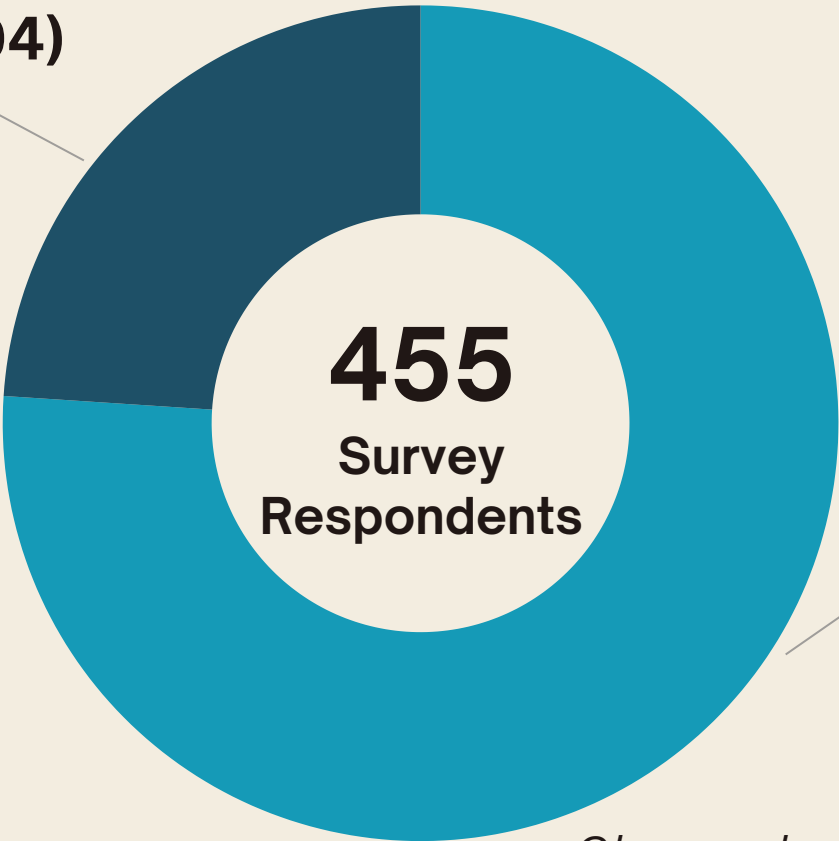
Participating Springfield-based  
Organizations

**DATA  
COLLECTION**



# SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

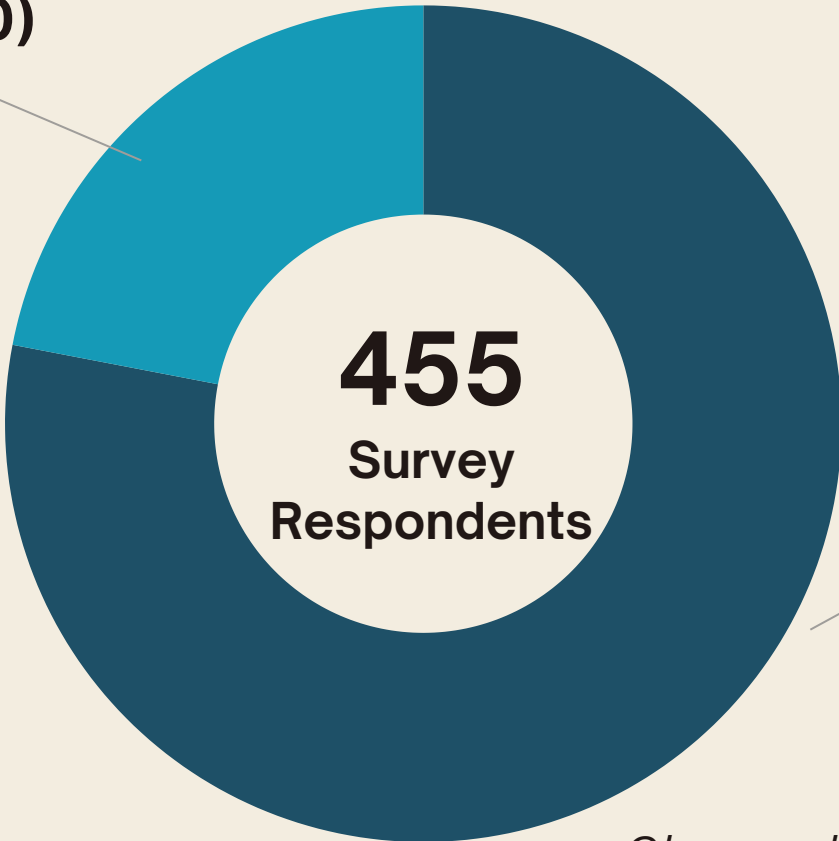
**Non-Springfield  
Resident**  
24% (104)



**Springfield  
Resident**  
76% (330)

*Observed value = 434*

**Organization**  
22% (100)



**Individual**  
76% (330)

*Observed value = 430*

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hampden County Sheriff's Office</li><li>• Springfield City Library</li><li>• Behavioral Health Network (BHN)</li><li>• Caring Health Center</li><li>• Harm Reduction LLC</li><li>• Springfield Department of Public Works</li><li>• Brightwood health center</li><li>• Square One</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael J. Dias Foundation</li><li>• CleanSlate</li><li>• Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth</li><li>• New North Citizen's Council</li><li>• Tapestry Health</li><li>• Springfield Public Schools</li><li>• The Gandara Center</li><li>• Mental Health Association</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Medical Trinity Health of New England</li><li>• CHESS Health</li><li>• Friends of the Homeless</li><li>• Impact Center Springfield</li><li>• Black Behavioral Health Network Incorporated</li><li>• Roca Inc.</li><li>• Family Treatment Court Springfield Juvenile Court</li><li>• Baystate Health</li></ul> |
|---|--|---|

# OPIOID RECOVERY REMEDIATION FUND (ORRF) FOCUS AREAS

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## Opioid Use Disorder Treatment & Recovery

This focus supports individuals struggling with substance use disorders can access and receive the help they need, in high-quality programs, no matter where they are or what their circumstances may be.

## Harm Reduction

To put it simply, harm reduction is a strategy that aims to minimize the negative consequences associated with drug use. It focuses on active outreach strategies and services for people who use drugs but are not yet in treatment.

## Prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education

The aim is to make sure people don't use opioids the wrong way and teach them how to prevent it. Help to create prevention plans where different groups work together to stop drug misuse.

## Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons

Help individuals who are/were in the criminal justice system by connecting individuals to various support services while also promoting collaboration between public safety agencies and other organizations working on this issue.

## Connections to Care

Overall, this focus promotes collaboration between different entities within our communities (such as Emergency Medical Systems or Fire Departments) to ensure that those seeking help receive comprehensive support.

## Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies

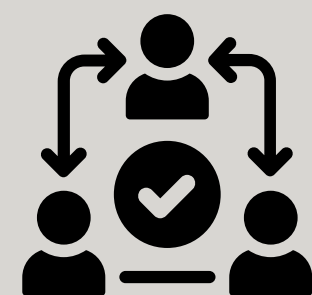
Provide support to women who are pregnant or have children while also dealing with drug addiction problems. It includes providing services like childcare, home visits to offer support during recovery, and offering specialized treatment programs for pregnant women and families.



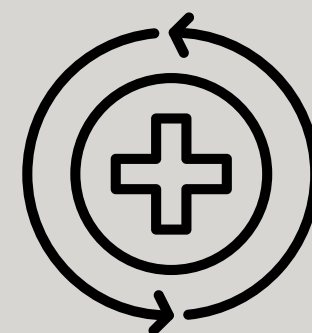
# CRITERIA FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

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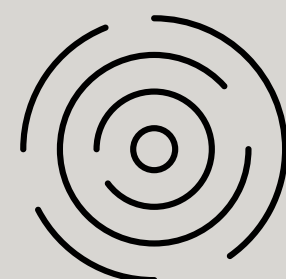
Proposed initiatives should focus on enhancing the overall recovery ecosystem in Springfield. The objective is to fortify networks and partnerships while establishing effective connections among community-based OUD providers, healthcare, criminal justice, and social welfare services (such as childcare, housing, workforce, food security, etc.) in at least one of the following areas:



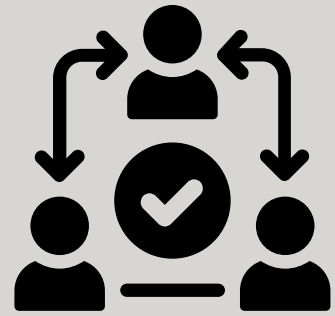
**RESOURCE NAVIGATION & ASSERTIVE LINKAGES**



**COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (CCM)**



**PEOPLE-CENTERED DESIGN AND SOLUTIONS  
BY PWLLE AND THEIR FAMILIES**



# RESOURCE NAVIGATION & ASSERTIVE LINKAGES

## Identified Barriers:

- Insufficient information sharing and lack of a shared agenda among OUD providers
- Difficulty navigating the complex OUD ecosystem

## Objective of the RFP:

- To improve OUD care coordination and integration by developing information, referral, and linkage networks and deploying Resource Navigators.

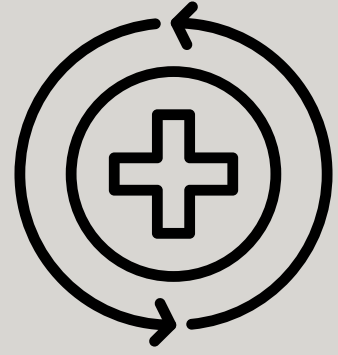
## Project Features:

- **Resource Navigator Program:** Deploying Resource Navigators to support PWLLE and their families.
- **413Cares Platform:** Leveraging the 413Cares platform to facilitate communication and coordination between OUD providers.
- **Interagency Collaboration:** Fostering collaboration between OUD care and treatment providers and other social service systems.

## Project Goals:

- Enhance information sharing and communication among OUD providers
- Improve access to OUD care and treatment services
- Strengthen the OUD ecosystem through coordinated efforts
- Lay the groundwork for a more intensive HUB model with closed-loop referrals and individual intervention plans to enhance support and access to services.





# COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (CCM)

## Identified Barriers:

- Lack of coordination and communication between OUD system providers
- Insufficient information sharing and unclear handoff processes
- Difficulty navigating the complex OUD ecosystem

## Objective of the RFP:

- To develop a comprehensive case management model that supports individuals with OUD in navigating the OUD ecosystem and accessing appropriate services.

## Project Features:

- **Systemic Navigation:** Assisting individuals in navigating the complex landscape of OUD providers.
- **Personalized Care Plans:** Developing individualized care plans tailored to the specific needs of each client.
- **Proactive Support:** Providing support during high-risk periods, such as release from incarceration.
- **Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** Working with other organizations to address systemic challenges and improve coordination.

## Project Goals:

- Improve continuity of care for individuals with OUD
- Enhance access to essential services and support
- Reduce barriers to treatment and recovery
- Improve outcomes for individuals with OUD



# PEOPLE-CENTERED DESIGN AND SOLUTIONS BY PWLLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

## Identified Barriers:

- Difficulty accessing and engaging with treatment and care
- Systemic barriers that hinder access to support services
- Lack of support for families of individuals with OUD

## Objective of the RFP:

- To develop a Human-Centered Design process that prioritizes the voices of PWLLE and their families to identify and address barriers and gaps in OUD care and treatment.

## Project Features:

- **Human-Centered Design:** A collaborative approach that involves PWLLE and their families in the design process.
  - **Phase 1:** Design Prototype Solutions:
    - **Empathize:** Create personas to represent different stakeholders.
    - **Define:** Formulate a clear problem statement.
    - **Ideate:** Evaluate and prioritize ideas.
    - **Prototype:** Develop low-fidelity prototypes.
  - **Phase 2:** Upgrade the Ecosystem: Test: Conduct usability testing with PWLLE and families.
    - **Implement:** Launch the final product or service.
    - **Evaluate:** Document the process and share learnings.

## Project Goals:

- Improve access to and engagement with OUD treatment and care
- Alleviate the burden of OUD on families
- Foster a more supportive and empathetic OUD ecosystem
- Develop innovative solutions that address the unique needs of PWLLE and their families



# APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

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## Application Submission Deadline:

- Submit applications by **11:59 PM EST on December 30, 2024**

## Submission Methods:

- **By Mail or In-Person:**
  - Springfield Department of Health and Human Services
  - Address: 311 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105 (9am-4pm)
- **By Email:**
  - Send to Justin Chellman at [jchellman@springfieldcityhall.com](mailto:jchellman@springfieldcityhall.com)
- **Important Note:** Applications cannot be submitted through an online platform. Follow the RFP outline included on the application document.

## Application Questions:

- Questions are encouraged and should be directed to Justin Chellman:
  - **Email:** [jchellman@springfieldcityhall.com](mailto:jchellman@springfieldcityhall.com)
  - **Phone:** (413) 787-6724

## Additional Notes:

- SDHHS may request clarification or additional information during the application review process.
- Technical assistance and support will be provided to applicants throughout the application process.

# GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

**Review Process:**

- **Level 1:** Content review by subject matter experts.
- **Level 2:** Final review by city officials from Administration and Finance.

**Topics for Review:**

- 1. Program Model
- 2. Measurable Outcomes
- 3. Centering People with Lived or Living Experience with OUDs
- 4. Data-Driven, Evidence-Based Treatment and Recovery
- 5. Outcomes and Community Impact
- 6. Anti-Racism and Cultural Humility
- 7. Equity
- 8. Comprehensive OUD Ecosystem
- 9. Budget

**A total of \$300,000 to \$500,000 will be allocated in 2025 for the 1-year demonstration period, providing each of the three grantees with between \$100,000 and \$160,000 for planning, design, and pilot testing of solutions.**

This fund distribution process promotes learning, ongoing evaluation, and community building. It emphasizes that grant distribution is a continuous learning experience, allowing for the sharing of best practices and collaborative growth.

Application Process & Timeline	
Date	Activity
Application Released	November 4, 2024
Informational Session	November 18, 2024
Application Due	December 30, 2024
Notifications	February 1, 2025
Grant Period Begins	March 3, 2025



# QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION