

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: FY23 CDC Infectious Diseases and the Opioid Epidemic Program Funding Request

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Members Blunt and Cole:

The undersigned 334 public health, harm reduction, HIV, hepatitis, criminal justice reform, and community-based organizations urge you to increase critical funding to respond to the dramatic and ongoing overdose crisis by providing **\$150 million for the Infectious Diseases and the Opioid Epidemic program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Labor, HHS appropriations bill.** Funding increases would support and expand access to overdose prevention and syringe services programs (SSPs) to help stem the dramatically increasing number of overdose deaths. Additionally, we urge you to end the ban on the use of federal funding for syringes.

The United States is experiencing an ongoing drug overdose crisis that continues to worsen, with over 106,000 overdose deaths expected to be counted in 2021 and even more in 2022. Overdose deaths recorded during 2021 are expected to have increased by more than 45% over the annual rate from January 2020. Expanding access to overdose prevention and other strategies for reducing harm, such as syringe services programs (SSPs), is essential to preventing drug overdoses. SSPs have the knowledge, contacts, and ability to engage and gain the trust of people who use drugs; they provide naloxone and other overdose prevention resources; and they connect people to medical care and support, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment including peer and recovery support. *Congress must provide funding essential to supporting and expanding access to SSPs during this critical point in the overdose crisis.* Additionally, we urge Congress to end the ban on the use of federal funding for the purchase of syringes.

While there has been a worsening of overdose deaths nationwide, overdoses have increased more dramatically among Black people and communities of color. Since 2015, overdose deaths have been rising most rapidly among Black and Hispanic communities. In 2020, Black people had the largest increase in overdose mortality of 48.8%, while the Hispanic community experienced a 40.1% increase compared to White people who experienced a 26.3% increase. American Indians and Alaska Natives experienced the highest rate of overdose mortality of all ethnic groups, 30.8% higher than that of white people. A study from Massachusetts found a 46% reduction in opioid overdose mortality rates with substantially increased access to naloxone. With additional resources, SSPs could increase ready access to naloxone and its use, which would save lives.

Currently, the nation has insufficient access to SSPs and most people at risk from overdose need significantly increased access to services. According to the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN), there are approximately 400 SSPs operating nationwide. Experts estimate that to sufficiently expand access to SSP programs, *the U.S. would require approximately 2,000 programs - 5 times the number in existence now.* The requested funding increase could provide a 10% increase to currently operating SSPs to help address funding cuts and shortfalls as well as expand the number of SSPs nationwide by approximately 50 programs. These additional resources are urgently needed to reduce overdose deaths and the spread of costly infectious diseases.

Finally, expanding access to SSPs will reduce health care costs, including for infectious diseases treatment. The rise in injection drug use associated with opioid use disorder over the past decade is largely responsible for the 380% increase in hepatitis C cases and has been the cause of HIV outbreaks in communities across the nation. Hepatitis C treatment can cost more than \$30,000 per person, while HIV treatment can cost upwards of \$560,000 per person. Averting even a small number of cases has the potential to save millions in treatment costs in a single year.

To help the nation respond to this urgent overdose crisis, we urge Congress to provide \$150 million in funding for the Infectious Diseases and the Opioid Epidemic program at CDC/HHS in the LHHS appropriations bill and to remove language banning the use of federal funding for syringes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical request. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact William McColl, senior consultant with Collier Collective at bmccoll@colliercollective.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

[A New PATH \(Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing\)](#) (CA)

[AIDS United](#) (VA)

[AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition \(AVAC\)](#) (NY)

[American Academy of HIV Medicine](#) (DC)

[American Atheists](#) (NJ)

[American Liver Foundation](#) (NJ)

[American Medical Women's Association](#) (IL)

[American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) (MD)

[Association For Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare](#) (TX)

[Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction](#) (AMERSA) (RI)

[Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#) (DC)

[Big Cities Health Coalition](#) (MD)

[Black AIDS Institute](#) (CA)

[Blacks in Law Enforcement of America](#) (DC)

[Center for Disability Rights](#) (NY)

[CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers](#) (FL)

[Clary Strategies](#) (CA)

[Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment](#) (NY)

[CURE \(Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants\)](#) (DC)

[DanceSafe](#) (CO)

[Drug Policy Alliance \(DPA\)](#) (DC)

[Elevyst](#) (PA)

[End Substance Use Disorder \(End SUD\)](#) (TX)

[Exchange Union](#) (WV)

[Facente Consulting](#) (CA)
[Faces & Voices of Recovery](#) (DC)
[Friends of Safehouse](#) (PA)
[Funders Concerned About AIDS](#) (DC)
[GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality](#) (DC)
[Global Liver Institute](#) (DC)
[Harm Reduction Sisters](#) (MN)
[Health in Justice Action Lab](#) (NY)
[HealthHIV](#) (DC)
[Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group-HCMMSG](#) (NY)
[HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute](#) (DC)
[HIV Dental Alliance](#) (GA)
[HIV Medicine Association \(HIVMA\)](#) (VA)
[In The Works](#) (CA)
[Institutes for Behavior Resources, Inc.](#) (MD)
[International Association of Providers of AIDS Care](#) (DC)
[John Snow, Inc. \(JSI\)](#) (MA)
[Justice Strategies](#) (NY)
[Latino Commission on AIDS](#) (NY)
[Law Enforcement Action Partnership \(LEAP\)](#) (MA)
[Legal Action Center](#) (NY)
[MomsRising](#) (WA)
[MoNetwork](#) (MO)
[Movement for Family Power](#) (NY)
[NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals](#) (VA)
[National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers \(NACDL\)](#) (DC)
[National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors \(NASADAD\)](#) (DC)
[National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors \(NASTAD\)](#) (DC)
[National Center for Lesbian Rights](#) (CA)
[National Coalition of STD Directors \(NCSD\)](#) (DC)
[National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#) (DC)
[National Harm Reduction Coalition \(NHRC\)](#) (CA)
[National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) (MD)
[National Minority AIDS Council \(NMAC\)](#) (DC)
[National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable \(NVHR\)](#) (WA)
[National Working Positive Coalition](#) (NY)
[NEXT Distro](#) (NY)
[Opioid Crisis Response Fund \(OCRF\)](#) (PA)
[Partnership to End Addiction](#) (NY)
[People's Action](#) (IL)
[Prevention Access Campaign - U=U](#) (NY)
[Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS](#) (AL)
[Reframe Health and Justice Consulting](#) (WA)
[Sero Project](#) (IA)
[Smoke Works](#) (MA)
[StoptheDrugWar.org](#) (DC)
[Southwest Institute for Research on Women \(SIROW\), University of Arizona](#) (AZ)
[SWOP \(Sex Worker Outreach Project\) Behind Bars](#) (FL)
[The 6:52 Project Foundation](#) (AL)
[The AIDS Institute](#) (DC)
[The Sidewalk Project](#) (CA)
[Trans Research and Resource Solutions Center](#) (IN)
[Transitions Clinic Network](#) (CA)
[Treatment Action Group](#) (NY)
[Treatment Communities of America](#) (DC)

[Truth Pharm \(NY\)](#)
[U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus \(MD\)](#)
[Vital Strategies \(NY\)](#)
[Washington Office on Latin America \(WOLA\) \(DC\)](#)
[Yale Program in Addiction Medicine \(CT\)](#)

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

[AIDS Alabama](#)
[AIDS Alabama South](#)
[Clinic652](#)
[Five Horizons Health Services](#)
[GoodWorks: North Alabama Harm Reduction](#)
[Medical Advocacy & Outreach \(MAOI\)](#)
[THRIVE Alabama](#)

Alaska

[Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association](#)

Arizona

[Aunt Rita's Foundation](#)
[Southwest Recovery Alliance](#)

Arkansas

[Central Arkansas Harm Reduction](#)

California

[Any Positive Change](#)
[APLA Health](#)
[Asian American Drug Abuse Program \(AADAP\)](#)
[Asian Liver Center, Stanford University School of Medicine](#)
[Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom \(BALIF\)](#)
[Being Alive - LA](#)
[Bienestar Human Services](#)
[California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals](#)
[Christie's Place](#)
[CLARE | Matrix](#)
[CORE Medical Clinic, Inc.](#)
[DAP Health](#)
[End Hep C SF](#)
[Face to Face](#)
[GLIDE](#)
[Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County](#)
[Harm Reduction Services \(Sacramento\)](#)
[HealthRIGHT 360](#)
[HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County \(HEPPAC\)](#)
[Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction](#)

[MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network](#)
[Northern Valley Harm Reduction Coalition \(NVHRC\)](#)
[Oasis Legal Services](#)
[Public Safety, San Luis Obispo](#)
[Radiant Health Centers](#)
[Safer Alternatives thru Networking & Education \(SANE\)](#)
[San Francisco AIDS Foundation](#)
[San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force](#)
[SLO Bangers Syringe Exchange and Overdose Prevention Program](#)
[The Gubbio Project](#)
The Honest Demons Club
[The Spahr Center](#)
[The Wall Las Memorias](#)
[The Wildflower Collective](#)
[Transgender Law Center](#)

Colorado

[Boulder County AIDS Project \(BCAP\)](#)
[Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#)
[Harm Reduction Action Center \(HRAC\)](#)
[High Rockies Harm Reduction \(HRHR\)](#)
[One Colorado](#)
[Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association](#)
[Vivent Health](#)
Young People in Recovery

Connecticut

[Alliance for Living](#)
[Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance](#)

Delaware

[Delaware HIV Consortium](#)
[Remedy Alliance](#)

District of Columbia

[Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc.](#)
[Harm Reduction Experts Improving Lives \(HIPS\)](#)
Rebuilding Independence My Style
[Voice For A Second Chance](#)
[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#)

Florida

[Florida Harm Reduction Collective](#)
[Hope and Help Center of Central Florida](#)
[NEU Health Solutions, Inc.](#)
[Zero Hour Life Center](#)

Georgia

[Georgia AIDS Coalition](#)
[Georgia Equality](#)
[Georgia Overdose Prevention](#)
[Just Love More, Inc.](#)

Hawaii

[Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii](#)
[Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center](#)
[Hep Free Hawaii](#)
[Kaipuokauloku](#)

Idaho

[North Idaho AIDS Coalition \(NIAC\)](#)

Illinois

[Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center](#)
[AIDS Foundation Chicago](#)
[Center for Housing & Health](#)
[GRASP - Broken No More](#)
[Heartland Alliance](#)
[Howard Brown Health](#)
[Illinois Harm Reduction and Recovery Coalition](#)
[JOLT Foundation](#)
[Phoenix Center](#)
[QC Harm Reduction](#)
[The Night Ministry](#)
[The Perfectly Flawed Foundation](#)
[The Porchlight Collective SAP](#)
The Puerto Rico Project
[Thresholds](#)
[West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force Prevention Partnership, Inc.](#)

Indiana

[A Better Life Brianna's Hope](#)
[Aspire Indiana Health](#)
Beyond the Pod
[Community AIDS Action Group of South Central Indiana](#)
Connection Cafe (Fayette County Harm Reduction Alliance)
[Foundations Family Medicine](#)
[Granny Connection](#)
[HIV Modernization Movement-Indiana](#)
Holding Space Recovery Project
[Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition](#)
[Indiana Recovery Alliance](#)
Mental Health America of Indiana
Refresh (F5)
[Scott County THRIVE](#)
[Women in Motion](#)

Iowa

[Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition \(IHRC\)](#)

[Iowa Student Harm Reduction Alliance](#)

Kansas

[DCCCA](#)

Kentucky

[Kentucky Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

Louisiana

[Capitol Area Reentry Program Inc.](#)

[CrescentCare](#)

Maine

[Amistad](#)

[Health Equity Alliance](#)

[Maine Access Points](#)

[Maine People's Alliance](#)

[Needlepoint Sanctuary of Maine](#)

Maryland

[Addiction Connections Resource](#)

[Advocacy and Training Center \(Cumberland\)](#)

[Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

[Maryland Communities United](#)

[National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - Maryland Chapter \(NCADD-MD\)](#)

[Voices of Hope, Inc.](#)

Massachusetts

[Fenway Health](#)

[Law Office of Lisa Newman-Polk](#)

[Material Aid and Advocacy Program](#)

[Tapestry Health Systems](#)

Michigan

[217 Recovery](#)

[ACCESS](#)

[Community Outreach Prevention and Education Network \(COPE Network\)](#)

[Flint Rising](#)

[Harm Reduction Michigan](#)

[HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan](#)

[Lansing Area AIDS Network \(LAAN\)](#)

[UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond](#)

[Wellness Services, Inc.](#)

Minnesota

[Hope House of St. Croix Valley](#)

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Minnesota people of color LGBTQ pride

[Native American Community Clinic](#)

[Rainbow Health](#)

[Southside Harm Reduction Services](#)

[University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS Projects](#)

Mississippi

[End It For Good](#)

Vivent Health

Missouri

[Addiction Science Unit, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, University of Missouri](#)

[The Missouri Network For Opiate Reform and Recovery](#)

Montana

[Open Aid Alliance](#)

Nebraska

[Nebraska AIDS Project](#)

Nevada

[Trac-B Exchange](#)

New Hampshire

[HIV/HCV Resource Center](#)

[New Hampshire Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

New Jersey

[New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

[New Jersey Policy Perspective](#)

[South Jersey AIDS Alliance \(SJAA\)](#)

New Mexico

[Casa de Salud](#)

Law Enforcement Training International

[The Mountain Center](#)

[Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico](#)

New York

[A Little Piece of Light](#)
[Alliance for Positive Change](#)
[Black Harm Reduction Network](#)
[Bronx Móvil](#)
[Callen-Lorde Community Health Center](#)
[Center for Motivation and Change](#)
[College and Community Fellowship](#)
[Community Action for Social Justice \(CASJ\)](#)
Ed for All
[Exponents, Inc.](#)
[Harlem United Syringe Exchange Program](#)
[Harm Reduction Caucus at Columbia School of Social Work](#)
[Housing Works, Inc. \(HRS\)](#)
Michael Galipeau Consulting
[NAMI Huntington](#)
[New York Transgender Advocacy Group](#)
[PrEP4All](#)
[RAW- Recovery All Ways](#)
[Second Chance Opportunities](#)
[Southern Tier AIDS Program](#)
[St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction](#)
TCC Group
[WCJA](#)

North Carolina

[Advocacy House](#)
[Benevolence Farm](#)
[ekiM for Change](#)
Fruit of Labor Action Research & Technical Assistance, LLC
[Holler Harm Reduction](#)
[North Carolina AIDS Action Network](#)
[North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition](#)
[Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction](#)
[Twin City Harm Reduction Collective](#)
[Western North Carolina AIDS Project \(WNCAP\)](#)
[Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc.](#)

North Dakota

[Fargo Cass Public Health](#)
Grand Forks Public Health

Ohio

[Caracole Prevention Program](#)
[River Valley Organizing](#)
[Showing Up for Racial Justice Ohio](#)
[Thrive Peer Recovery Services](#)
[Writers in Residence](#)

Oklahoma

[Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance](#)

Oregon

[Caring Ambassadors Program](#)

[HIV Alliance](#)

Pennsylvania

Black and Latinx Community Control Philadelphia

[Daniel J. Orens Foundation, Inc.](#)

[Family Services Association of Bucks County](#)

Friends of POPN

Friends of Safehouse

March Fo(u)rth Consulting

[Operation in My Back Yard](#)

[PA Harm Reduction Network](#)

[Pathways to Housing PA](#)

[Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Network](#)

Philadelphia Housing Action

[Philadelphia Overdose Prevention Network](#)

[Prevention Point Pittsburgh](#)

[Reclaim Philadelphia](#)

[SELF Inc.](#)

[Why Not Prosper](#)

Puerto Rico

[Coalición de Coaliciones Pro Personas sin Hogar de PR, Inc.](#)

[El Punto en la Montaña, Inc](#)

[Hermanxs de la Calle / Boutique Comunitaria por Urbe Apie](#)

[Intercambios Puerto Rico, Inc.](#)

Pacientes de SIDA Pro Política Sana

Rhode Island

[Project Weber/RENEW](#)

[RI Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts \(RICARES\)](#)

South Carolina

[Challenges Inc](#)

PALSS, inc.

South Dakota

[South Dakota Urban Indian Health](#)

Tennessee

[A Betor Way](#)

[Street Works](#)

Texas

[Legacy Community Health Services, Inc.](#)
[Lets Grow Beautifully Together Qmunity Center](#)
[Prism Health North Texas](#)
[Texas Harm Reduction Alliance \(THRA\)](#)
Vivent Health

Utah

[ONE VOICE Recovery, Inc.](#)
[Utahns Against Hunger](#)

Vermont

[AIDS Project of Southern Vermont](#)
[Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform](#)

Virginia

[Virginia Rural Health Association \(VRHA\)](#)

Washington

[Blue Mountain Heart To Heart](#)
[Conspiracy of Geniuses](#)
[Cowlitz Family Health Center Harm Reduction Program](#)
[Dave Purchase Project](#)
[Public Health - Seattle & King County](#)
[The People's Harm Reduction Alliance](#)
[Voices of Community Activists and Leaders, Washington \(VOCAL-WA\)](#)

West Virginia

[Milan Puskar Health Right](#)
[West Virginia Hepatitis Academic Mentoring Partnership \(WVHAMP\)](#)
[WV Citizen Action Group](#)

Wisconsin

[Community Advocates, Inc.](#)
Vivent Health

Wyoming

[Recover Wyoming](#)