
North Carolina Healthcare Association

**ED/Community Peer Support Pilot Project
Request for Applications**

Background

Over the past decade NC has seen a marked rise in opioid overdose emergency related visits. Since 2009, emergency departments across the state have received over 32,000 opioid overdose patients. In 2017 alone, NC had over 5000 ED visits for overdose and the vast majority of patients presenting in the emergency department were either Medicaid/Medicare (~25%) or Uninsured/Self-Pay (~50%). As such, the ability to coordinate peer support services, partner with the existing framework (Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO) System) and develop a protocol and support structure in the ED is needed. These efforts are expected to reduce future avoidable opioid-related emergency department visits and overdose deaths and engage more patients in treatment. Critical to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) is both treatment needs assessment and a whole person approach along a continuum of care that includes prevention, treatment, maintenance, and recovery support. Evidence shows that peers can play a vital role in the continuum.

Scope of Work

This program seeks to improve connections to ongoing treatment, recovery, and harm reduction supports for patients presenting to emergency departments with non-fatal opioid overdose. Programs will embed certified peer support specialists to the emergency department to connect patients presenting with opioid overdose to treatment, recovery, and harm reduction supports. Peer support specialists have been in recovery for three years and trained in specific recovery strategies and behaviors by local peer organizations or state level Local Management Entities/ Managed Care Organizations.

Criteria for Participation

- Eligible hospitals will be based in North Carolina, be a not-for-profit acute care hospital and have an accredited Emergency Department
 - Proposals will identify Physician, Addiction Professional, and Peer Advocate Champion

Peer Support Program Requirement

- Designate a program lead to oversee implementation, completion of deliverables, and to serve as the primary point of contact with NCHA Program Lead
- Hire a minimum of 2 certified peer support specialists (to act as liaisons between community and ED)
- Have a Certified in Addiction Medicine Professional available for consult
- Secure commitment from Hospital Leadership
 - Leadership Commitment Letter
- Conduct and record all training and coordination for peer in community w/ discharge planning
- Track and report on relevant metrics determined by NCHA & NC DHHS on patients served such as referrals/connections, 30-day readmissions, mortality rates, number of ED visits annually, types of peer support services provided and relevant assessments.
- Provide an outline of organizational structure and levels of supervision for certified peer support specialists

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- Outline sustainability plan for continuation of the project after funding period
- Attend 2-day Peer Support Integration Training Seminar
- Participate in Bi-Monthly Consortium Calls
- Attend Program Retreat in late 2018
- Submit monthly budget invoices/reports to ensure fiscal responsibility
- Confirm that patients are connecting with community assets and track connections/referrals

Technical Assistance

Participating hospitals will participate in routine technical assistance site visits, coaching calls, webinars, and other relevant events with TA Team at NCHA & in partnership with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Budget

Funding awarded through this grant program should be used to establish an ED based Peer Support program at your facility. It is not meant to support the entirety of your programming in peer support efforts, or to supplant current funds. Collaboration with other organizations in your community is expected (as well as within the collaborative program), as is leveraging of existing funds to optimize programming. Facilities will receive no more than \$180,000 from NCHA via a cost for reimbursement grant. All awards will be paid based on monthly invoice of actual expenses.

Please use the attached budget form and include a detailed budget justification.

The award is dependent and contingent upon selection and subject to the availability of funds.

Required for Submission

- Completed budget and budget justification. Include all sources of revenue for your peer support programs, staffing allocations, and all relevant program expenses
- Letters of support or commitment documentation from key community partners
 - -LME/MCO
 - -Hospital Administration
- An organizational chart for the program
- Narrative explaining need, willingness to engage, commitment to data submission, and community readiness.
- Applications should be no more than 4 pages excluding attachments.
- Electronic application submissions only.
- Applications must be submitted no later than March 30th, 2018

ATTN: **Jai Kumar, MPH**
Director of Planning & Development
NC Hospital Foundation
jkumar@ncha.org

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