



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Contact: Ryan Scarpino
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 (office)
412-339-7995 (cell)
Ryan.Scarpino@AlleghenyCounty.us

Fitzgerald Announces County to Receive CDC Grant to Address Opioid Epidemic

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today announced that the county has been awarded Overdose Data to Action funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The funding and related work will be administered by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD).

“Our departments have moved quickly and worked proactively to address the issue of opioids on multiple fronts, and have seen progress in that work,” said Fitzgerald. “This CDC grant funding will allow ACHD to build on those successes and to do what we do best – work together to find solutions.”

The county will receive approximately \$5.2 million per year through August 31, 2022 to address the opioid overdose epidemic throughout the county. The funding will be used to bring together an interdisciplinary group of partners to assist ACHD in using data to monitor emerging trends and direct prevention activities. The goal of the program is to use timely data to inform overdose prevention activities including strategies to connect people with opioid use disorder to proper medical care.

“We are excited to receive this funding from the CDC as it will allow us to deploy a variety of innovative surveillance and prevention strategies that will help the Department and partners prevent opioid-related harms and overdose to save lives,” said Otis Pitts, ACHD’s Deputy Director of Public Policy and Community Relations. “We will be partnering with the PA Department of Health, health systems, insurers, community providers, and public safety to ensure that a comprehensive set of evidence-based practices reach residents throughout Allegheny County.”

Key surveillance and prevention strategies include:

- Bolstering existing opioid surveillance efforts with new data from the PA Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and other sources including the county’s Department of Human Services, Medical Examiner’s Office and the Jail.
- Increasing awareness of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) options and improving linkages to care for people with opioid use disorder.
- Supporting health care provider training and systems support for safe prescribing practices and expanding MAT.

For more information regarding the Health Department’s overdose prevention and response efforts, call 412-687-ACHD (2243) or visit <http://j.mp/ACHDOpioidInfo>.

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Ronald A. Sugar, Esq., MBA, Interim Director
Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office
542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325 | www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment

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