

New Services

Prevention Solutions@EDC has created several new services to support states and communities in addressing three pressing topics: racial and health inequity, opioid misuse and overdose, and evaluation design and delivery.

To learn more, contact PS@EDC Director Carol Oliver: coliver@edc.org.

Focus on Racial and Health Inequity

Equity Transformation Services

Purpose: Help states develop a comprehensive approach to addressing racial and health inequity through consultation, strategic planning, and training services

Challenge: As national attention focuses on race and health inequities, communities struggle to address these issues in their substance misuse prevention efforts. While many trainings exist on these critical problems, they don't always offer concrete strategies for integrating race and health equity into their work. States and communities may also have difficulty navigating the language of health equity and related concepts, and understanding and selecting among various approaches to enhancing health equity.

Audience: States initially, then local-level program staff

What We Do: Help states develop a comprehensive, multipronged approach to integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles into their substance misuse prevention efforts by providing support and consultation in the following, complementary ways:

- Conduct community and organizational race and health inequity assessments
- Develop and implement a strategic plan to better coordinate existing EDI efforts and integrate new, complementary approaches
- Design and deliver training programs on topics related to health equity for members of the prevention workforce

Focus on Opioids

Community Opioid Collaborative

Purpose: Assist states in developing the support systems communities need to work across sectors to prevent opioid misuse and overdose

Challenge: Current approaches to opioid use prevention are often piecemeal. To make a difference, sectors need to work together, yet most lack the supports to do so.

Audience: States initially, then local-level program staff

What We Do:

- Partner with states to facilitate statewide strategic planning processes to guide cross-sector prevention efforts at the local level, including developing community RFPs and selection criteria for identifying those communities ready to engage in cross-sector collaboration.
- Provide tailored consultation to support communities in creating effective approaches that are the right fit for their setting and needs.

Focus on Evaluation

Innovation Learning Lab

Purpose: Increase the number and array of effective interventions to prevent and/or reduce the harm produced by opioid misuse

Challenge: The face of the opioid overdose epidemic continues to change, driven by the proliferation of illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-adulterated drugs and exacerbated by COVID-19. Various interventions have shown promise in addressing the crisis, including naloxone training and distribution, and post-overdose interventions such as warm handoffs. Yet few of these programs have been rigorously evaluated.

Audience: States initially, then local-level program staff

What We Do: Work closely with states to support local prevention programs to develop and evaluate innovative overdose prevention interventions. By engaging programs in a comprehensive development process informed by rigorous evaluation methodologies, states can help to ensure that limited federal funds are used wisely; innovative programs have a strong

theoretical base, grounded in community needs; and new innovations produce sustainable outcomes. Specifically, we work with states to:

- Identify innovative programs that meet an identified prevention need
- Provide training, consultation, and customized TA to strengthen the evaluation capacity of these programs (e.g., develop evidence-informed logic models, create/enhance evaluation tools)
- Create opportunities for cross-fertilization among program developers
- Establish criteria and award financial incentives for programs showing potential impact

Evaluation Academy

Purpose: Build evaluation capacity of local-level prevention programs

Audience: Teams of up to three individuals representing local-level prevention programs and coalitions

What We Do: State selects one of four tracks. Participating teams receive 6 hours of virtual training and 6 hours of follow-up TA. Tracks include the following

- *Evaluation Basics:* Explores the fundamentals of evaluation, including definitions, purpose, types of evaluation, logic model development, and evaluation planning. Follow-up TA focuses on applying training concepts to participants own evaluation plans and logic model development.
- *Using Data to Address Emerging Issues:* Prepares participating teams to address emerging substance misuse problems in the absence of available evidence-based prevention interventions. Participants will apply public health theory to the emerging problem, develop theories of change to identify potential prevention approaches, and explore ways to adapt, to the problem, strategies that have been shown to be effective in addressing other problems.
- *Using Data to Improve Programming for Vulnerable Populations:* Explores issues of fidelity and adaptation, guidelines for adapting evidence-based programs, and strategies for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of adaptations. Follow-up TA focuses on applying training concepts to meet the needs of priority populations.
- *Culturally Responsive Evaluation Considerations:* Examines specific techniques for integrating cultural responsiveness into evaluation planning. Follow-up TA will focus on

helping participants apply culturally responsive evaluation principles to their current evaluation efforts.

Evaluation Coaching

Purpose: Build the capacity of local programs to apply evaluation basics to their own evaluation design and implementation

Challenge: State officials often want to know whether the health promotion and disease prevention programs they fund are appropriately responsive to public health problems, and whether these programs are producing the intended effects. This is especially true for programs implemented to address emerging health problems or with populations for whom few evidence-based solutions exist. Despite the urgent need for such feedback on program effectiveness, states and their funded communities often lack the resources and expertise to conduct program evaluation.

Audience: Teams of local program developers, implementers, and or evaluators

What We Do: Provides direct evaluation assistance and resources to local program developers, implementers, and evaluators so that they can demonstrate evidence of program effectiveness. Delivered by subject matter and evaluation experts, our approach combines multiple methods to build program evaluation capacity, including:

- **Readiness assessment:** We work with state officials to identify communities, agencies, or programs for participation. Organizations complete an application demonstrating the extent to which they are ready and willing to evaluate programming with greater rigor.
- **Foundational training on evaluation:** We provide training that examines: (1) what it means to become an evidence-based program, (2) how program logic models guide evaluation planning, and (3) why evaluation planning follows specific steps.
- **Face-to-face consultations:** Our evaluation coaches provide customized, face-to-face consultations with communities and/or local agencies examine gaps in evaluation capacity and identify the best or most feasible ways to strengthen that capacity.
- **Evaluation action plans:** During the on-site consultation, the evaluation coaches and program representatives develop an action plan for improving evaluation or building the program's evaluation capacity.
- **Follow-up assistance and coaching:** Evaluation coaches work closely with local staff on implementing the evaluation action plans.