

## **2024 Harm Reduction Supplies Grants Awardees Project Overview**

### **Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition: Supply Distribution**

Word of mouth is strong and we have now existed in the harm reduction space in Polk County for 7 years, so our reach already surpasses that which we can supply. We are averaging 60 client interactions per month in 2024 in our Polk County office, up from 45/month in 2023. This unquestionably makes us the leading, and potentially the only actual, Harm Reduction organization assisting active substance users on a daily basis. Therefore, we would use 4/5 of the grant to restock our perennially understocked stores of (1) life-saving and (2) safer use supplies. With increased reach comes increased need for supplies. These supplies go from us at IHRC directly into the hands of active users and/or those closest to them. It doesn't get more impactful than handing someone the tools and information they need to reduce harm and, if needs be, save their own or a loved one's life. The remaining 1/5 would go to employee compensation as additional supplies need to be ordered, distributed, stocked, and/or delivered. As for outcomes, we will monitor the number of clients served per month and amount of safer use supplies distributed. These data are currently obtained for other projects, in addition to naloxone distribution monitoring, overdose reversal reporting, and point-of-care testing for HIV and hepatitis C. The supplies procured with this funding will be directly distributed to clients and are unlikely to last through 2024 given the great need for IHRC services. Between supplying our own clients and continuing to support the recovery centers that were funded in the first round of People with Lived Experience (PWLE) grants, there is no shortage of need in Polk County.

Contact and learn more about IHRC's work at [www.iowaharmreductioncoalition.org](http://www.iowaharmreductioncoalition.org).

### **Steps of Hope Iowa: Naloxone Project**

The Naloxone Project aims to combat opioid overdoses by strategically placing accessible naloxone kits in public spaces. This initiative seeks to raise awareness about overdose prevention and empower community members to intervene in emergencies. The goal is to save lives. Funds allocated for the project will primarily be used to acquire naloxone boxes, naloxone kits and secure distribution points in various locations. Each naloxone box will contain educational materials on recognizing overdose symptoms and administering naloxone safely, ensuring that bystanders are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to save lives. Moreover, promoting harm reduction goes beyond naloxone distribution. The project will invest in outreach campaigns to destigmatize addiction and encourage individuals to seek help without fear of judgement. Collaborations with local healthcare providers and addiction specialists will facilitate training sessions on overdose response and prevention, targeting both the general public and high-risk communities. Sustainability is a cornerstone of this initiative, with ongoing efforts to monitor and replenish naloxone supplies as needed. Community engagement will be fostered through workshops, forums, and social media campaigns, fostering a culture of support and preparedness. By integrating naloxone accessibility with comprehensive education and advocacy efforts, the Naloxone Project aims to reduce opioid-related deaths and promote a compassionate, proactive approach to public health in our county.

Contact and learn more about Steps of Hope's work at [www.stepsofhopeiowa.org](http://www.stepsofhopeiowa.org).