

Linking CORE Leaders:

A Distance-Based Curriculum to Address the Intersection of the Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19



Introduction

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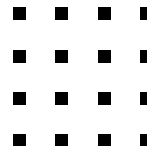
Acknowledgements:

This work is supported by the Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program (RHSE) Grant #2020-46100-32840/Project Accession #024105 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Our team would also like to acknowledge the contributions of our partners, advisory group, and pilot participants.

Problems Addressed

- Health inequities exasperated in rural communities
 - Need for innovative approaches to community problems
- Intersection of public health emergencies (i.e. COVID-19 and Opioid epidemic)
- Stigma, medical mistrust, misinformation



Key Tasks

- Develop 12-week curriculum addressing relevant topics relative to OUD and COVID-19 using a health equity lens
- Recruit county-representative NCLs to participate in 12-week program
- Work with NCLs to create unique, individualized community plans
- Create impact report complete with state-level policy recommendations based on evaluation findings



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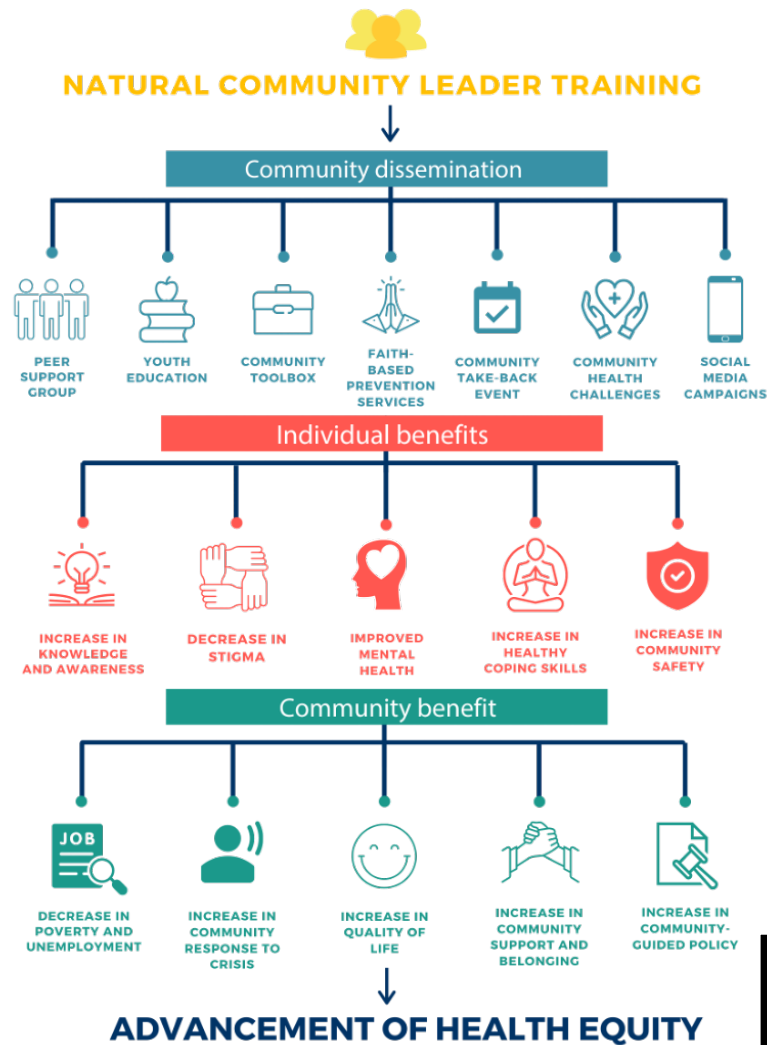
Project Goal

Linking C.O.R.E. Leaders seeks to mitigate long-term harm associated with the intersecting epidemic of opioid misuse and abuse and COVID-19 in rural counties via distance-learning mechanisms targeted at Natural Community Leaders (NCLs).

Natural Community Leader

natural com•mun•ity lea•der

noun: A person who is dedicated to taking on an issue in their community and is fearless in raising awareness for and improving community health.





12-WEEK PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Intro to Health Equity
Substance Use Disorder and Preventive Efforts
Harm Reduction and Supporting Recovery
Navigating Stigma and Cultural Competence

An Opioid Crisis Amid a Pandemic
Medical Mistrust and Misinformation
Impact on Mental Health

Action Planning in Response to Community Crisis
Community Organizing and Mobilization
Planning for Sustainability and Continuing the Conversation
Evaluating Success & Next Steps

Program Delivery

- 50/50 blended delivery model
- Learning Management System (LMS) and Zoom
- Workbook and toolkit for optimal engagement
- Person in recovery recruited to ensure perspective was trauma-informed and accurate to individual experiences

Discussion Checkpoint

Using your Individual Reflection worksheet, take a moment to brainstorm some of the individual, relationship, community, and societal-level factors that may contribute to or perpetuate SUD. Some of these may vary from community to community - there are no right or wrong answers.

Module Lesson

Linking CORE Leaders - Module 4

100% COMPLETE

Module 4 - Navigating Stigma & Cultural Competence

Lesson 1 of 1

Module 4 - Navigating Stigma & Cultural Competence

Materials Needed:

- Independent Reflection Worksheet
- "Responding to Pushback" handout
- "Stigma Associated with COVID-19" handout



Best Practices and Lessons Learned

1

Maximize opportunities for engagement to support participant retention and enthusiasm from week to week.

2

Be flexible in definitions of success; elicit regular feedback and prepare to pivot based on communicated need and existing participant knowledge.

3

Create opportunities for participant networking, which can support program sustainability and collaboration amongst similar communities.

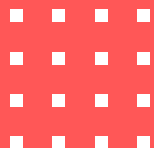
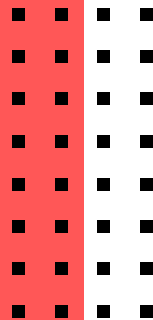
4

Participate in shared learning to ensure material can be effectively applied to participants' communities.



I got so much more out of this program than I expected to. It was incredibly valuable, and I would recommend it to anyone who is new to community-level work!

- Natural Community Leader, Allison Show Low, AZ





Questions?



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www.makinghealthhappen.org/courses/linking-c-o-r-e-leaders

