



Support HB002/SB78 (Ford/Feigenholtz) Overdose Prevention Sites Pilot Program

The Overdose Crisis in Illinois

- Between January 2021 and January 2022, the statewide epidemic led to nearly **4,061 preventable deaths from opioids, a serious 12.63% increase from the year prior.** (CDC) With an increased supply of potent fentanyl in street-bought drugs across the state, more lives will continue to be lost without evidence-based strategies and resources in place.
- Hardest-hit populations, **especially marginalized communities of color and low-income communities,** need Illinois to embrace harm reduction services rooted in compassion to prevent the loss of more life.
- It is estimated that each emergency response call and overdose death costs taxpayers between \$30,000-\$40,000 or over **\$100 million annually.** OPS' would save taxpayer dollars while saving lives.

What are Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)?

OPS, or safe consumption sites, are hygienic locations for people to use *preobtained* substances under the supervision of *trained staff* designed to provide *medical, mental health, and social support interventions.*

The goals of OPS are to:

- Save lives.
- Reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis.
- Reduce public injection of substances and discarded syringes in surrounding areas.
- Link those with substance use disorders to behavioral and medical supports.

More than **101 sites** in 11+ countries use this evidence-based harm reduction service, including New York City and multiple Canadian cities.

Support HB2/SB78: Safe Consumption Sites/Overdose Prevention Sites Pilot Program

- ✓ Creates a **harm reduction services license for OPS pilot sites**
- ✓ Targets **high-risk and socially marginalized individuals** who are most likely to use in public, unobserved, high-risk, and unsanitary conditions
- ✓ **Connects folks to community support** or other existing **medical care, treatment, recovery programs, and harm reduction services**
- ✓ Establishes **minimum principles and features for OPS**, informed by the harm reduction and medical communities
- ✓ Requires programs to **hire peers/people with lived experience** along with medical staff



- ✓ Establishes an **advisory committee** to advise SUPR on the rules, regulations, and development of OPS
- ✓ **Funding has already been allocated** by IDHS to pilot OPS

Supporting Organizations

Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center
ACLU of Illinois
Adler University
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Almost Home Chicago
The Angel Moms Network
Brightside Clinic
Canna Equity Coalition Illinois
Carle Addiction Recovery Center
Center for Housing & Health
Center for Wellness Counseling
Chicago Drug Users' Union
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chicago Urban League
Christ Community Mennonite Church
Clergy for a New Drug Police
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association
Community Outreach Intervention
Projects (COIP)
Cook County Department of Public Health
Drug Users Health Collective of Chicago
Duney's Defense
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
Family Guidance Centers
FED UP! Coalition
Great Lakes NIDA Clinical Trials Network
Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS)
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance
Hope for Healing
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Harm Reduction & Recovery Coalition
Illinois Medical & Nursing Associations
Illinois State Medical Society
Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine
Jolt Foundation
Lake County State's Attorneys Office
Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
Lake Forest Hospital
Lawndale Christian Health Center

Lighthouse Recovery

Linda Benton Yoga
Live4Lali
Love Behavioral Health Consulting, LLC
Love LeB
Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Men & Women in Prison Ministry
MBM Advantage, LLC
NAMI Chicago
National Association of Social Workers Illinois
The Night Ministry
Northern IL Recovery Community Organization
PCC Community Wellness
Peace and Justice Solutions
Pharmacy and Addiction Medicine Society
Phoenix Center
The Porchlight Collective, SAP
Prevention Partnership, Inc.
Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Point to Point Kane County
The Puerto Rico Project
Renaissance Social Services, Inc.
Rush University College of Nursing
A Safe Haven Foundation
Sana Healing Collective
Shawnee Health Services
Shelter, Inc
Sierra Club
Sisters in Sobriety Transformed Anointed & Healed
Springfield Harm Reduction Initiative - Phoenix2U
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
TASC
Thresholds
University of Illinois Chicago
West Side Heroin and Opioid Task Force