

Department of Health Services Harm Reduction Division – MacArthur Park Overdose Response Team (\$450,000)

1.) Program Name

Please provide a title for the recommendation being submitted.

MacArthur Park Overdose Response Team

2.) Program Description

Please provide a full description of the recommendation (needs identified, target population, services provided, etc.).

Through funding awards from CFCI and AB109, the LA County Department of Health Services Harm Reduction Division contracted with a community-based organization to provide overdose prevention and response to the 52-block region of Skid Row through an innovative new program. The Skid Row Overdose Response Team provides for a set of dedicated teams to actively monitor Skid Row for potential and actual overdoses. Equipped with naloxone and oxygen, the team's goal is to prevent overdoses from happening and respond and reverse overdoses when they occur. Since the program's inception in December of 2022, the contractor has reversed 181 overdoses.

Following Skid Row, MacArthur Park has the second highest number of overdose deaths among people experiencing homelessness in LA County. According to the Department of Public Health's Center for Health Impact Evaluation, the 90057 zip code encompassing MacArthur Park experienced 80 unintentional overdose deaths among people experiencing homelessness for years 2021 and 2022 combined, which is more than any other zip code in the County. DHS requests funding to establish a MacArthur Park Overdose Response Team based on the Skid Row Overdose Response Team model. The team will circulate in and around the Park to identify potential and actual overdoses. Once an overdose has been reversed using a combination of naloxone and oxygen, the team will monitor the individual for at least 90-minutes to ensure that a secondary overdose does not occur. When necessary and agreed to by the individual experiencing an overdose, the team will coordinate the transfer of the individual to an Emergency Department or to the David L. Murphy Sobering Center located in nearby Skid Row for ongoing care. The team will also connect individuals to the MacArthur Park Drop In Center, which is currently being developed by the Harm Reduction Division in conjunction with LA City Council District 1, for ongoing support and linkages to health and supportive services. When not responding to overdoses, the Overdose Response Team will develop relationships with people who use drugs in the and near the park to stay abreast of drug use trends in order to better respond to the ever-changing landscape of drug use in the MacArthur Park area. The Overdose Outreach team will take part in ongoing coordination efforts with other harm reduction and

homeless and health services teams in the area. This team will regularly review MacArthur Park drug testing data from UCLA and LA County DPH.

The MacArthur Park Overdose Response Team will monitor the park and immediate area for overdoses 5 days a week for 6 hours a day. To determine the best times of day for monitoring, the Harm Reduction Division will request overdose response call data from LAFD to determine when most overdoses occur in the park. Hours of operation will be regularly assessed and changed when needed in order to align with the times of day when most overdoses occur.

3.) Implementing agency

Please identify the implementing Department / Agency.

Department of Health Services Harm Reduction Division

4.) Recommended Funding Amount

Provide the estimated amount of funding requested and indicate whether the program can be implemented even if partially funded. Please also indicate whether this recommendation is for one-time funding or ongoing funding.

This proposal requests \$450,000 in AB109 innovative project funding. The project will be contracted out to a community-based organization for implementation. Funds will be utilized for staffing costs and program supplies incurred by the community-based contractor. This project cannot be implemented with partial funding.

5.) Duration of recommended program/project

What would be the duration of the recommended program?

This request will fund one year of services. The Harm Reduction Division is committed to exploring other funding opportunities to continue operating this vital community service beyond year 1.

6.) Estimated time to implement

If funded, how soon can implementation of the recommendation begin?

It will take approximately 9-12 months to implement this project. Once a contractor is selected and the contract is executed, it will take approximately two months for the contractor to hire and train personnel to carry out program activities. Eligible organizations will have experience providing outreach services and overdose prevention and intervention with naloxone and oxygen, and an established presence in the Mac Arthur Park area.

7.) Alignment with PSRT Goals approved for 2024

Is this recommendation developed specifically to support/align with any of the most recently approved PSRT Goals? If so, please indicate which goal and explain.

The MacArthur Park Overdose Response Team project aligns with Objective 4 of Goal 3. The Overdose Response Team creates an opportunity at Intercept 0 of the Sequential Intercept Model of Criminal Justice System interventions to connect people with mental health concerns, people with substance use disorder and co-occurring disorders to receive care while avoiding potential justice system involvement, reducing emergency room visits and reducing deaths. Interventions at this level have been shown to reduce the overall number of persons entering the prison system as a result of their mental health, substance use or co-occurring disorder. LA County prison system data indicates that approximately 21% of the prison population has a co-occurring disorder. Overdose is the leading cause of death among people recently released from incarceration and among people experiencing homelessness.

8.) Point of contact

Please provide the name and e-mail address for the point of contact from the implementing Department/Agency.

Shoshanna Scholar, sscholar@dhs.lacounty.gov, 323-459-3003

9.) Name of Submitting Member

Please provide the full name of the PSRT member submitting this recommendation.

Clemens Hong