



# AmeriCorps Community Training (ACT) for Overdose Rescue

## Information Packet for Interested Applicants

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Thank you for your interest in the AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program! We look forward to learning more about you during the recruitment process, and we'd like to share some more information about us. This packet provides detailed information about the ACT program, the applicant screening and on-boarding process, and the role of an Overdose Rescue Trainer.

Despite being preventable and treatable, overdoses from heroin, fentanyl and other opioids continue to cause an alarming number of deaths in our region, devastating many in our communities. ACT aims to stop overdose deaths, reduce harm caused by opioids, and strengthen community engagement in addressing public health challenges. Our ACT AmeriCorps members serve a critical role in meeting these goals, and ACT is committed to providing our AmeriCorps members with an enriching and impactful service experience.

We'd be happy to further discuss any questions you may have! We are looking forward to forming our newest ACT Team!

In community partnership,

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## What is the AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program?

### Our Mission

To provide community members in southeast Michigan with information, training, and tools to stop overdose deaths and reduce harm related to opioids.

### Key Objectives

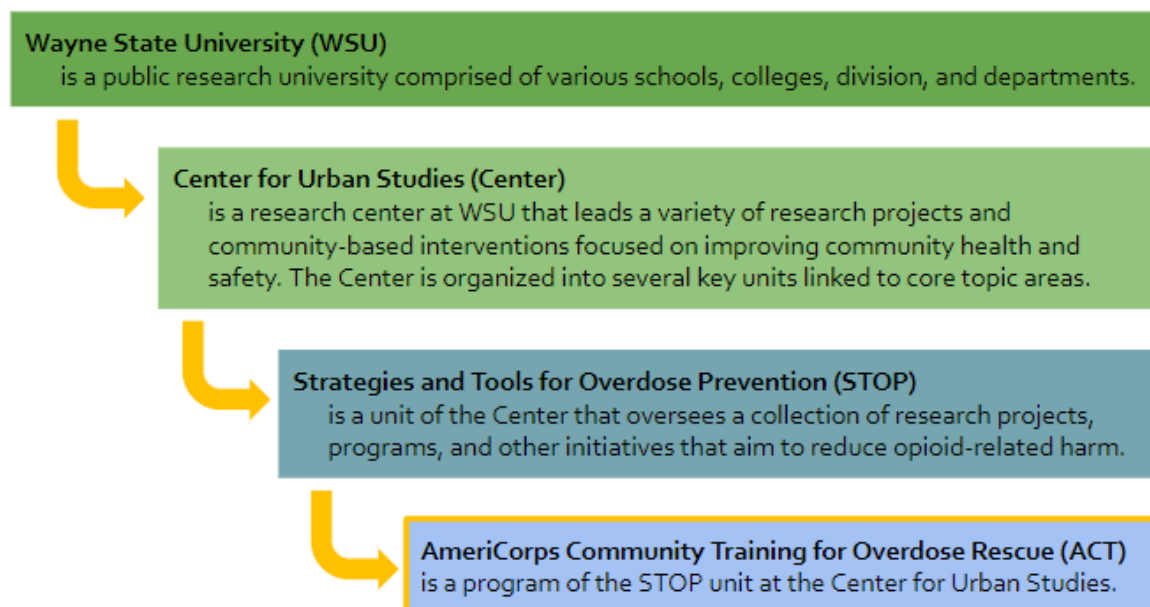
Each year, ACT will:

- Deliver 17,000 hours of service to the community by recruiting leaders across the region to commit to and successfully complete an AmeriCorps service term as an Overdose Rescue Trainer
- Train 800 community members in Overdose Rescue preparedness strategies
- Distribute 800 Overdose Rescue Kits containing life-saving Narcan nasal spray (an overdose-reversing medicine).

### Organizational Framework

The AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program is administered by the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University (see the organizational diagram below).

The ACT program is funded by AmeriCorps – a federal agency that supports community service and volunteerism by awarding grant funding to community-level organizations across the country to implement service-based programs. As an AmeriCorps sponsored program, ACT is part of a national network of independent programs that all incorporate community service as a key strategy for addressing critical community challenges.



**Note:** Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

## *An AmeriCorps Term of Service with ACT*

You can join the ACT program as an *Overdose Rescue Trainer* – teaching others in the community how to provide first aid during an opioid overdose emergency to help save lives.

This AmeriCorps service position is different from a traditional employment or academic opportunity - it is a paid opportunity to develop real-world skills and experience while making a positive difference in your community. See the following section for more information about our AmeriCorps Member benefits.

ACT welcomes candidates of all backgrounds, and we provide extensive training and professional development for incoming members. This AmeriCorps service position is a rewarding opportunity for students, professionals, and anyone who wants to make a difference in our community.

As an ACT service member, you will sign up for a six-month term of service (see term dates below). This is considered a quarter-time service position, which requires the member to serve a minimum of 450 hours during the term (average 20 hours per week through the six-month term). Members who do not meet the 450-hour minimum by the end of their term may not be eligible for the education award and other member benefits.

After successfully completing a quarter-time term, members may extend their service by enrolling in another term (selection for an additional term of service is dependent on program needs and member performance during previous terms).

Applicants are expected to be available to commit 20 hours of service consistently each week during their term, primarily scheduled between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. Evening and weekend hours are occasional and limited. Applicants should also plan to attend mandatory orientation 10am-3pm during the first week of the service term.

<b><i>Term</i></b>	<b><i>Start Date of Service Term</i></b>	<b><i>End Date of Service Term</i></b>	<b><i>PRIORITY Application Deadline</i></b>	<b><i>FINAL Application Deadline</i></b>
<b>Summer 2024</b>	<b>April 29, 2024</b>	<b>November 10, 2024</b>	<b>February 7, 2023</b>	<b>March 6, 2023</b>
<b>Fall 2024</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	<b>March 2024</b>	<b>June 2024</b>	<b>July 2024</b>
<i>Winter 2024 Coming soon!</i>	<i>January 2025</i>	<i>July 2025</i>	<i>September 2024</i>	<i>October 2024</i>

Applicants are highly encouraged to apply by the *priority application deadline* to receive early admissions decisions, reserve your spot for the term, and participate in pre-orientation activities with our team. However, we will consider application submissions for remaining spots until the final application deadline for the term. Any applications received after the final application deadline will be considered for the following term.

**Note:** Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

## Member Benefits

Although members do not receive a traditional wage, AmeriCorps offers members many benefits throughout their term of service, as well as other alumni benefits after the service term is complete. Benefits include:

- **A living allowance in the amount of \$5,400**
  - The living allowance will be distributed throughout the term in equal bi-weekly payments, in the form of a check.
  - Members should expect to receive around \$330-\$400 per biweekly pay before taxes (actual pay amount depends on the number of pay periods within the term).
  - The living allowance is subject to federal, state, and city taxes. The actual amount of your paycheck will depend on the number of allowances you claim when you complete a federal, state, and city W-4 form as part of your hiring paperwork. You can use this website to better estimate your biweekly pay: <https://www.paycheckcity.com/calculator/salary/>
- **A Segal Education Award in the amount of \$1,956.35**
  - The award can be applied towards pursuing further education or training or to pay off existing qualified student loans. The award can typically be used at any institution that accepts federal aid.
  - This is not a cash award. Rather, it is disbursed directly by the National Service Trust to the school/program or to your lender.
  - Some institutions match this award with additional funding support (listed here): <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-education-award/matching-institutions>.
  - Members must successfully complete their service requirements and serve a minimum of 450 hours during their term to qualify for the Segal Education Award.
  - This award is also subject to taxes and it will be taxed in the year you use it.
  - You have 7 years after completing your term to use the award.
- **Loan forbearance on qualified student loans**
  - During your term of service, you can request that qualified federal student loans be put into forbearance, meaning you will not need to make payments on your loan during your service term.
  - Once service has begun and you are enrolled as an AmeriCorps member, you will be able to request forbearance of qualified loans in the MyAmeriCorps system.
  - Upon successful completion of your term, you may also request the interest accrued on your qualifying loan while in forbearance during your term be paid by the National Service Trust.
- **Extensive professional development**
  - A unique component of being an AmeriCorps member is receiving guided support and career development training.
  - At the start of the term, members will receive comprehensive training about overdose first aid, community outreach and engagement strategies, public speaking and meeting facilitation, and other topics to ensure members are prepared to successfully carry out program activities.
  - The ACT program will also provide members with additional learning opportunities and skill-building during the term that can be applied to future roles. The program intends to enhance social and civic competencies including communication, leadership, and team collaboration.

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## Overdose Rescue Trainer - Role and Daily Activities

ACT's Overdose Rescue Trainers hold weekly Overdose Rescue training sessions that anyone from the community may attend, and they also arrange private training sessions for groups or organizations.

- Each training session lasts approximately one hour.
- During the training presentation, you will present information about the magnitude of the overdose crisis and its impact on our community, how to recognize the signs of an overdose, how to respond to an overdose including how and when to administer Narcan (a medicine that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose), how to perform CPR, and aftercare considerations for overdose survivors.
- At the end of the training, you will provide all participants an Overdose Preparedness Kit containing instructions for providing aid, information about local treatment and recovery services, and a dose of Narcan - a medicine that reverses opioid overdose and is administered with an easy-to-use nasal spray device.
- Training sessions may be attended by anyone in Southeast Michigan, and are particularly important for people who are likely to encounter an overdose emergency – employees of local businesses, transit workers, librarians, street outreach teams, safety patrol groups, social service providers, etc. A primary part of your role will include conducting outreach within the tri-county area to promote the training sessions and recruiting participants to attend the training.

### Typical service tasks

ACT members engage in the following tasks to successfully train people in the community:

- Recruit community members and groups to participate in Overdose Rescue training sessions by conducting outreach throughout metro-Detroit to promote the ACT program. Outreach methods may include distributing flyers, social media promotion, phone calls, emails to organization representatives, short presentations at community meetings, etc
- Develop tailored messaging to help appeal to specific audiences when promoting the trainings
- Collaborate with teammates to plan, prepare for, and promote the training session
- Coordinate the logistics for training sessions and facilitating the training events
- Deliver Overdose Rescue training presentation to participants and answer questions
- Distribute Overdose Preparedness Kits to training participants

In addition to carrying out training sessions, members build their own knowledge and experience in a variety of areas in a team environment. During orientation and throughout the service term, members build foundational knowledge about the overdose crisis, harm reduction, and public health. Members also learn about intersectional issues related to the overdose crisis (ex: mental health, incarceration, homelessness, maternal health, veteran populations, etc.). As a team, members discuss articles and other media related to these topics. Guest speakers provide different perspectives on the overdose crisis and the efforts to address this issue. These aspects of the service member experience provide many opportunities for peer leadership and professional development.

**Note:** Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

## *Service Location and Precautions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic*

**Currently, incoming members should expect to serve the majority of hours in-person as long as it remains safe to do so.** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our program has adapted all service activities so they can be conducted in a virtual/remote format. However, we primarily conduct service in-person in the community when it is safe to do so. The portion of service being held virtually versus in-person will vary depending on the latest local conditions and trends related to the coronavirus. **Team members should be capable and comfortable serving together and completing tasks in a hybrid format (serving both in-person and remote).**

### **Teleservice**

Teleservice is a term used to describe serving hours remotely from an appropriate alternative site, where a supervisor is unable to physically be present to verify hours. Teleservice is allowed under certain circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, inclement weather, etc. Members may also be permitted to complete certain pre-approved service activities remotely.

During teleservice, team members collaborate with each other and program staff via Zoom, email, and other remote communication tools, and community outreach and overdose rescue training sessions are conducted online.

It is important that team members are comfortable communicating in a virtual manner with other team members and people in the community. Team members should be comfortable completing about 20 hours per week on the computer if needed. Members are expected to have reliable internet access, check their program email daily, and complete all required tasks by their due date.

### **In-Person Precautions**

As a program focused on improving public health, it is a top priority to protect our team members and people in our communities from the spread of the coronavirus. Our program adheres to CDC regulations and WSU policies, and we have precautionary procedures and guidelines that team members are expected to carefully follow for in-person service. Key precautions currently in place include:

- ACT team members are required to comply with WSU vaccine mandate policies, which includes a requirement for all campus affiliates to be fully vaccinated against the flu, with limited exceptions.
- Members must receive vaccine clearance from Wayne State University.
- Members will not be permitted to come into the office if they are experiencing symptoms of illness. Members may be asked to complete a temperature check upon arrival to their service site or fieldwork site.
- Members may be required to wear a mask while serving in-person, depending on current public health guidelines and local circumstances. Additional precautions may include running a room air purifier whenever more than 1 person is sharing a space; adhering to room capacity limits; regularly sanitizing any high-touch surfaces or shared items. Additional or modified precautionary measures may be needed depending on the activity and/or fieldwork setting.

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## Selection Process for ACT Service Members

The candidate review and selection process involves the following stages:

1. Interested candidates can complete an **application** at any time through our website at [stopoverdosedeadths.org](http://stopoverdosedeadths.org). Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and candidates are encouraged to apply before the priority application deadline for the term. Applications submitted after a final deadline for the term will be considered for the next term.
2. Program staff will review your application for eligibility and inform you if you've been selected for a **phone screening**. During this 25-minute interview, we will discuss your application, your availability, your prior experience and your expectations of the role.
3. You will then be notified if you are selected to participate in a **group interview**, and we will contact your **references**.
4. Candidates will undergo a **criminal history check**, as required by the AmeriCorps agency. Candidates will be required to provide a state-issued photo I.D., proof of US citizenship or permanent resident status, and their signed social security card (see *Required Eligibility Documents* section below for more details). Selected candidates will also be required to schedule a fingerprinting appointment to complete the AmeriCorps-mandated criminal history check.
5. **Selections** will be announced after the group interviews, and new members will then attend an **enrollment session** to review and complete onboarding paperwork before starting service.
6. **Orientation** for new members takes place during the first week of service. Orientation activities are mandatory for all new members. After orientation, you will serve an average of 20 hours per week according to your availability.

*Note that during the coronavirus pandemic, some aspects of the screening process (such as the group interview and enrollment session) may be conducted remotely.*

## Required Eligibility Documents

ACT is a service program within the AmeriCorps network. To be eligible for AmeriCorps service, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and pass a criminal history check. To verify eligibility, candidates must provide ACT staff with each of the following documents. **These will be requested prior to the group interview:**

1. Documentation to confirm you are a US Citizen , National, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien
  - o If you are a US citizen, one of the following:
    - US passport
    - Birth certificate showing US birth
    - US Naturalization certificate, or other official proof of US citizenship
  - o If you are a US National or Lawful Permanent Resident, one of the following:
    - State Department Certification (N-550; N-560; N-561; or N-570)
    - Alien Registration Card/Permanent Resident Card (I-551)

**AND**

2. a valid (unexpired) government-issued photo ID
  - o One of the following:
    - driver's license
    - state-issued photo ID

**AND**

3. your social security card (signed).

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## **Important Dates for Summer 2024 Service Term**

### **Priority Application**

Priority Applications for the Summer 2024 cohort will be accepted until **February 7th, 5PM EST**. Candidates are highly encouraged to apply by the priority application deadline for the term. Applying early will allow you to reserve your spot for the term, plan ahead for your term-of-service, and participate in some pre-orientation team activities.

Phone interviews for early/priority applicants will be scheduled from 1/29/2024-2/13/2024

Group interviews for early/priority applicants will take place on (candidates must attend one of these dates):

**Thursday, February 15, 2024, 10am-12pm**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 1pm-3pm**

Early Selections will be announced by Friday, February 23, 2024. To reserve your spot, selected candidates must confirm their acceptance by **Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5pm**.

### **Late Application**

Applications for the Summer 2024 cohort will be accepted until **March 6, 2024 5PM EST**.

Phone interviews for late applicants will be scheduled until **3/18/2023**.

Group interviews will take place on (candidates must attend one of these dates):

**Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10am-12pm**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 1pm-3pm**

Selections will be announced by **March 28, 2024**. Selected candidates must confirm their acceptance by **April 1st, at 5pm**.

### **Enrollment for Selected Candidates**

Enrollment Sessions will be held (new members must attend one of these dates):

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 1pm-3pm**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10am-12pm**

New members will also be required to come into the office at Wayne State University campus to complete onboarding paperwork and schedule their phone screening appointment. Drop-in times will be available the **week of April 5th**.

### **Service Term**

The Summer 2024 service term begins on Monday, April 29, 2024

New members must attend orientation sessions during the first week of service April **29th-May 3rd, 2024, 10am-3pm each day (times tentative)**. The final orientation schedule will be provided during the enrollment process.

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Members serve 20 hours per week until the Summer 2024 term end date **November 10, 2024**.

**Note:** Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

## Contact Information

Chelsea Mudalagi, *Main Recruitment Contact*

ACT Program Coordinator

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Lauren Meloche

ACT Program Director

[LaurenMeloche@wayne.edu](mailto:LaurenMeloche@wayne.edu)

Email is the fastest way to get in touch with us, but you can also contact us at 313-681-5207 if you prefer.

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## *Additional Information and Resources*

**Visit our website and social media pages to become more familiar with our program:**

<http://www.stopoverdosedeadths.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stopoverdosedeadths/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stopoverdosedeadths/>

**Below are some resources that provide more information about the overdose crisis and harm reduction:**

### Articles:

Read the article announcing the launch of our ACT program in Fall 2019

<https://today.wayne.edu/news/2019/06/14/americorps-grants-to-help-combat-opioid-crisis-further-urban-safety-initiatives-32584?>

The science of addiction: How opioids – and environment – change the brain

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/health/2018/01/26/opioid-epidemic-addiction-science-environment-brain/1021225001/>

Fentanyl-Linked Deaths: The U.S. Opioid Epidemic's Third Wave Begins

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/03/21/704557684/fentanyl-linked-deaths-the-u-s-opioid-epidemics-third-wave-begins>

The Opioid Crisis Is Getting Worse, Particularly for Black Americans

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/22/upshot/opioid-deaths-are-spreading-rapidly-into-black-america.html>

Without Medical Support, DIY Detox Often Fails

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/07/03/533793801/without-medical-support-diy-detox-often-fails?>

Visit <https://www.hri.global/what-is-harm-reduction> and <https://harmreduction.org> for more information about Harm Reduction (see definition in glossary below).

### Videos:

Harm Reduction 101 (2:34)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXJJj\\_igFmE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXJJj_igFmE)

The harm reduction model of drug addiction treatment | Mark Tyndall (16:31)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfzkBGgxXGE>

Finding the Hook: Changing Perceptions of Harm Reduction Strategies (3:40)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMF9Cfn\\_SRk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMF9Cfn_SRk)

How Naloxone Saves Lives in Opioid Overdose (5:39)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWe\\_IPniEq4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWe_IPniEq4)

Motorcycle Crash Shows Bioethicist The Dark Side Of Quitting Opioids Alone (43:14)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/07/08/738952129/motorcycle-crash-shows-bioethicist-the-dark-side-of-quitting-opioids-alone>

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## Glossary

AmeriCorps – AmeriCorps is a national network of independent programs that incorporate community service as a key strategy for addressing critical community challenges. AmeriCorps programs respond to pressing issues facing our nation including providing education and mentoring to children, increasing access to nutrition and healthcare, improving housing and public safety, and addressing the opioid overdose epidemic. The ACT Program is an AmeriCorps State sponsored program. Corps is pronounced “CORE” (as in “apple core”), not “corpse”. For example, ACT is an “Ameri-Core” program, not an “Ameri-Corpse” program.

AmeriCorps Member – an individual serving in an AmeriCorps program. An AmeriCorps service member is not an employee, apprentice, or volunteer. Members receive a living allowance during their term and are eligible to receive an education award or alternative post-service benefit upon successful completion of their term.

Education Award – a benefit AmeriCorps members may receive after successful completion of a term of service. The award is directly paid to an educational institution and may be used for federal student loans, or to finance college, graduate school, or approved vocational training.

Living Allowance – a stipend, *not* a wage or salary. The living allowance is provided to AmeriCorps members who are actively enrolled and serving in a program and is distributed over the length of the term of service.

Service – helping others to meet critical community needs. AmeriCorps members participate in service programs across the U.S. to help improve the lives of individuals and communities. Service is not a job or employment.

Service Term – a committed period of service with an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps programs offer five types of terms (full time, half time, reduced half time, quarter time, and minimum time). All terms of service for the 2022-2023 year with the ACT program will be quarter-time slots consisting of 450 minimum required hours, completed over a 6-month period. Members may choose to complete more than one term during a year.

Opioid – a substance that binds to opioid receptors, which are located throughout the brain and body. Opioids are commonly used to relax the body and relieve pain. Opioid is a term that is inclusive of:

- opiates: naturally occurring substances derived from opium plants (e.g., morphine)
- semi-synthetic opioids: heroin, oxycodone
- fully synthetic opioids: fentanyl, tramadol

Overdose – occurs when a toxic amount of a drug, or combination of drugs, overwhelm the body. In an opioid overdose, the individual may become unresponsive to stimulation and their breathing slows or stops, which deprives the body of oxygen. An overdose can result in death, or if not fatal, may have other negative health consequences (e.g., brain damage). An opioid overdose can typically be stopped if an opioid antidote (naloxone) is administered quickly.

Overdose Epidemic – also called the opioid overdose crisis, is the continued sharp rise in opioid-related deaths since the 90s. However, opioid use disorder and overdose deaths caused by opioids have occurred before the recent opioid epidemic and occurred at particularly high rates beginning in the late 1960s.

Naloxone / Narcan – is a lifesaving medication that should be administered during an opioid overdose emergency to reverse the effects of opioids. It is an FDA-approved medication and works as an opioid antagonist: The naloxone molecules block opioid receptor sites, essentially ‘kicking out’ any opioids that were bound to the receptors. This reverses the toxic effects of an overdose. The medication can be used safely by anyone in the community to provide first aid. An individual cannot become addicted to naloxone, and naloxone

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cannot cause harm if they receive too much of it or if the person has no opioids in their system. Narcan is a brand name of naloxone that comes in an easy-to-use nasal spray device.

Community First Responder – a volunteer member of the public who provides care during a medical emergency while waiting for professional help to arrive.

Harm Reduction – Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with substance use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use substances. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use to abstinence to meet drug users “where they’re at,” addressing conditions of use along with the use itself. Source: <https://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/>

Substance Use – use of psychoactive substances - which may be legal, illegal, or controlled for use. Intensive substance use may lead to significant impairment or distress, or other problematic results such as recurrent failure to fulfill major obligations at work, school, or home; recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous; recurrent substance-related legal problems; or continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance.

Substance Dependency – (“Addiction” is often used synonymously, but is more stigmatizing term) A physiological dependence on a substance, characterized by increased tolerance for the substance (need for increased amounts of the substance to achieve the desired effect, or diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the substance) and withdrawal (the experience of mental or physical disturbance or reduced functioning upon reduction in substance use). Prolonged use of opioids may or may not result in tolerance or dependence. There are several risk/protective factors that influence a person’s likelihood of dependence.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) – a clinical term describing a syndrome (diagnostic criteria established by American Psychiatric Association) characterized by recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs that cause clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. An individual may be diagnosed with a mild, moderate to severe substance use disorder, or a person may meet the criteria, but never be diagnosed with SUD. SUD involving opioid use is termed an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Source: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disorders>

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) / Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) – Medications used to treat opioid use disorder relieve symptoms of withdrawal and address psychological cravings that cause chemical imbalances in the body. Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) include methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone (also prescribed under various brand names). Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines MOUD with behavioral therapy to treat substance use disorders.

Recovery – the process of change, including changes to the brain, through which people improve their health and wellness. Recovery may be accomplished through treatment, therapy, and replacing substance use behaviors with healthy alternative behaviors to live self-directed lives. Source: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/recovery>

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