



Town of Manchester | Manchester Health Department

479 Main Street

Manchester, CT 06040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Manchester Health Department is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) and Eastern Highlands Health District to address Opioid Abuse in our communities.

In partnership with the Manchester Health Department, NCDHD applied for and was awarded \$300,000 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), a national non-profit association representing nearly 3,000 local health departments in the United States. This project was 1 out of 15 grants funded nationwide and focuses on four strategic areas: surveillance and data sharing, partnership with public safety and first responders, a communications campaign, and harm reduction. Partners include Hartford Healthcare and the CT Harm Reduction Alliance. Local stakeholders will be engaged such as local prevention councils, Member-Town first responders, and Public-School Superintendents.

According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the number of fatal drug overdoses in our communities has increased 2-fold since 2019. Approximately 71% of the fatal overdose deaths occurred among individuals residing in Enfield, Manchester, Mansfield, Vernon, Tolland, and Windham.

“The Manchester Health Department is excited to embark on this project. Any step we can take to prevent or lessen the devastating effects of opioid abuse in our community is a step we are happy to take. This funding will open doors to regional conversations, new partnerships, and increased capacity to work with our local stakeholders,” said Joel Cox, Director of Human Services.

The Manchester Health Department will release further information about this project as it develops.

###