



# County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse

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## Project Description

### Purpose of County Leadership Forum:

To engage local elected leaders in an informed discussion about the opioid epidemic, and develop collaborative strategies that enhance prevention, education, and treatment.

### Goals:

- to elevate the awareness of all local elected officials so they have a common understanding of the opioid epidemic in their county;
- to discuss its causes, its effects on citizens, and its implications for the county's future;
- to educate local elected leaders about successful prevention and treatment programs and provider resources available in their county;
- to generate coordinated education, prevention and treatment strategies to reduce the occurrence of opioid addiction, overdose, and death.

### Target Participants:

- County Commissioners
- Municipal Council members from every municipality within the county
- School Board members and superintendents from every LEA within the county
- County Sheriff
- Chief District Court Judge for the county's judicial district

The target audience for the County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse is elected officials. Focusing on elected officials assures that all public policy leaders have a common understanding of the opioid problem and effective treatment options, and have an opportunity to consider collaborative solutions.

If there are existing efforts underway in your county, please consider ways to include them in your Leadership Forum. Having all the elected officials know and understand what is available in the county, as well as what might be missing, will strengthen everyone's resolve to reverse the epidemic trends. Examples of other community leaders you might want to include are:

- Representative of the county medical society or the local physicians' community (consult with Board of Health or Medical Society as needed to identify a participant);
- District Attorney or designee;
- Chief Executive Officer of your local hospital;
- President of the Community College;
- Municipal Police Chiefs and First Responders