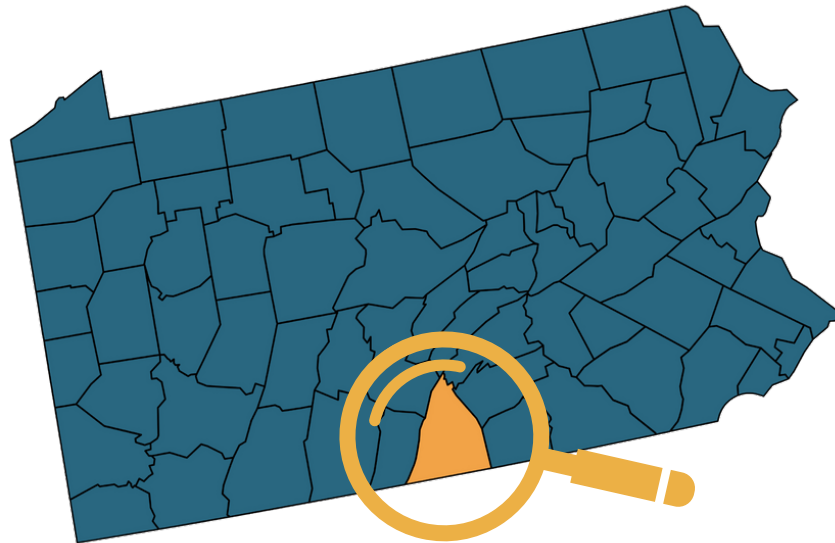


A GLIMPSE INTO THE 2022 COSSUP PROJECT: PHASES I & II

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA



*Saving lives through our pillars of:
Collaboration, Access, Reducing Stigma, Education, Equity, & Support*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Franklin County, located in south-central Pennsylvania, is one of five sites part of the 2022 COSSUP Project. COSSUP provides financial and technical assistance to states and other units of government to develop, implement, or expand comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other substances. This includes an emphasis on promoting racial equity and implementing public health harm reduction strategies to reduce overdoses among probation and reentry populations in Pennsylvania and, ultimately, saving lives. From January to June 2023, JSP conducted a comprehensive needs assessment within the Franklin community to identify its assets and gaps in the public health and criminal legal systems in an effort to build a comprehensive community-driven plan for the COSSUP funds.

In conducting this assessment, JSP carefully planned an inclusive approach, providing a platform for directly impacted individuals to articulate their experiences firsthand. Local subject matter experts were hired to provide expertise and assist the JSP team in gathering and capturing the voices of the community members who are often left out of decision-making processes. Stakeholders from various spheres, including those who work in the system, criminal legal system-involved people with SUD/OD and their loved ones, community-based service providers, and community members in general, were invited to contribute their insights. Fifty-six (56) individuals from these groups took part in the needs assessment process in Franklin County. However, there was a noticeable disparity in the participation rates of Black and Brown individuals compared to their white counterparts, echoing broader systemic issues seen in the criminal legal system. Recognizing this discrepancy and the significance of locally owned businesses such as Black and Brown beauty salons and barbershops, future actions by JSP include a collaborative endeavor to leverage these vital community anchors as partners in the fight against the opioid epidemic, beginning with the county home to Pennsylvania's capital city, Dauphin County. We hope that fostering these partnerships will expand access to substance use recovery support services and resources.

The culmination of the needs assessment phase yielded a set of well-thought-out recommendations tailored specifically for Franklin County to use its COSSUP funding effectively and in a meaningful and sustainable way. These recommendations, addressing critical areas such as collaboration, access to resources and treatment, stigma reduction, education, equity, and support, were instrumental in shaping the tactical planning phase of the project and can be found on the preceding pages. Inspired by the identified gaps and overarching principles, the project was renamed COSSUP CAREES, symbolizing a commitment to comprehensive care and equitable solutions. The pillars of collaboration, access, stigma reduction, education, equity, and support form the cornerstone of COSSUP CAREES, interwoven to create a holistic framework for action. Looking ahead, the JSP team aims to navigate these pillars through intentionally collaborative, multi-disciplinary approaches. By recognizing the interconnectedness of these elements and addressing both barriers and solutions, COSSUP CAREES endeavors to effect meaningful change and save lives within Franklin County.

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Pennsylvania's overdose death rate ranks among the highest in the nation. Franklin County, Pennsylvania, has not escaped the devastation caused by the opioid epidemic.

32

Reported accidental drug overdose deaths in Franklin County in 2022.*

9%

of overdose deaths in 2022 were experienced by Black individuals, despite comprising only 3% of the Franklin County population.*

75%

of drug overdose cases listed fentanyl as the primary drug.

45%

Of 2021 New Commit Drug Screened Admissions in the Franklin County Department of Corrections reported Opioid Use.

80%

Of 2021 New Court Admissions in Franklin County had a Diagnosed Substance Use Problem.

34%

Of 2021 New Court Admissions in Franklin County reported Opioid use in the last year.

Data obtained from:

OverdoseFreePA. 2022 Franklin County Death Data.
<https://www.overdosefreepa.org/know-the-facts/view-overdose-death-data/>
*2022 data is preliminary.

Open Data Pennsylvania. Inmate Admissions with Substance Use Year 2016 - Current Quarterly County Corrections.
https://data.pa.gov/Opioid-Related/Inmate-Admissions-with-Substance-Use-Year-2016-Cur/bvin-4fk2/about_data

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JSP TEAM

It is important to understand that not every recommendation we make can be implemented. However, based on our findings, we have compiled the top recommendations to consider. It is up to each county to determine what is realistic to achieve with the COSSUP funds.

- ★ Hire therapists or consultants to provide training on trauma-informed approaches and practices for internal and external stakeholders.
- ★ Build collaborative relationships and develop strategies to improve engagement and access to treatment for communities of color, particularly the Latino/a/e population, given the overrepresentation in the PA legal system.
- ★ Hire a Spanish translator or partner with the local community college to provide translation services at the local jail.
- ★ Hire, fund, or expand culturally responsive peer support and certified recovery specialists in Franklin County in the following spaces: jail, probation, hospitals, and medical and behavioral health providers.
- ★ Expand Harm Reduction approaches to include access to naloxone (Narcan), medication-assisted treatment (MAT), fentanyl and xylazine testing strips, and drug lock boxes throughout Franklin County, specifically in communities of color and rural areas. Utilize the PA Overdose Prevention Program to request a supply of naloxone and/or testing strips for yourself or your organization.
- ★ Contract with local providers to develop a schedule of regular “pop-up” services to reach criminal legal system-involved people in the rural areas of Franklin County in need of SUD/ODU services and treatment. This approach can address geographic equity concerns.
- ★ Collect and share stories of recovery to reduce stigma via creative storytelling mediums, including the COSSUP CAREES community of practice.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA

COSSUP STRATEGIES

1

Strategy #1

Provide individuals with a criminal legal history with a variety of free group treatment options available at a number of locations.

2

Strategy #2

Provide voluntary Moving Forward support groups to any individuals with a criminal background or substance use history.

3

Strategy #3

Increase harm reduction strategies for individuals with substance use issues through attendance at Moving Forward support groups.

5

Strategy #5

Reduce the number of technical violations for substance use and home plan issues that include incarceration at Franklin County Jail.

4

Strategy #4

Provide individuals on Adult Probation supervision with group treatment options that could be voluntarily attended as part of a plan to avoid technical violation incarcerations.

