



Louisville Cares

A Call for Community Investment to Save Lives and Heal Louisville

In 2023, the United States had another record breaking year of overdose deaths. Our city continues to be plagued by overdose deaths, along with a myriad of other health and community crises. While no community has been left untouched, Black Louisvillians have been dramatically impacted at a disproportionate rate.

While nothing can immediately reverse this tragedy, there is much more the Louisville Metro Government could do to save lives, address community concerns and improve our city as a whole. Louisville could be a leader in turning the tide on these issues and example for other cities by investing in the following areas:

We call on Louisville Metro Government and Mayor Greenberg to Increase the Proposed Executive Budget to add the following to Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW):

- **\$500K for the purchase of Naloxone:** Naloxone, an overdose reversal medication, is a critical tool to decrease overdose deaths. Naloxone has been proven most effective when it is widely distributed to individuals at risk of overdose. LMPHW is best positioned to effectively distribute this life saving medication.
- **\$1M Mobile Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD):** MOUD, like buprenorphine and methadone, are critical to decreasing overdose deaths and proven medications to helping people get control of their drug use. Making access to these medications through mobile outreach is a critical innovation that would bring drug treatment directly to those in need.
- **\$1M to Fund Key Service Providers Providing Lifesaving Services:** Arthur Street Hotel, Kentucky Harm Reduction Coalition, Seeds of New Leaf, and Kentucky Recovery Connection are proven service providers working at the frontline lines of saving lives and tackling city-wide issues. Our city must invest in these local leaders to support their efforts.

We call on Mayor Greenberg and the Louisville Metro Government to follow through on the \$600K commitment to creating a West Louisville Harm Reduction Hub. Louisville Metro Government has allocated \$600K to a critical hub for lifesaving services and care in the West End, the community hardest hit by the overdose crisis in Louisville. We call for the rapid creation of that hub under the leadership of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness (LMPHW).

We call on Mayor Greenberg and the Louisville Metro Government to permit community-based organizations to distribute safer smoking/snorting kits as a public health tool and do not prosecute the possession or distribution of these supplies. This would have no financial impact on the city of Louisville, but it would allow local service providers to distribute critical tools for



decreasing the spread of transmissible disease, and providing another tool to engage people into care. These harm reduction tools are critical to saving and improving lives.

We call on Mayor Greenberg and the Louisville Metro Government to better coordinate - and increase funding - to support non-police emergency response programs, and alternatives to incarceration. Most urgently, all city funds and contracts should be moved under the purview of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness (LMPHW). Louisville Metro Government has invested millions in various non-police emergency response programs and alternatives to incarceration. While all are laudable, they need to be better coordinated under the guidance of Louisville's leading agency on tackling health and wellness in our city.