

The Overdose Prevention & Education Network (OPEN)

Initiated in 2016 in response to BC's overdose public health emergency, OPEN is a strategic granting call to support coordinated community overdose prevention and response.

Model of Funding



Multi-phase, network model

- Four phases of funding
- Renewal of grants for grantees
- Allows project/peer coordinator positions and honoraria for peers and Indigenous Elders
- Low barrier and flexible grant management
- Responsive knowledge exchange, training or capacity building opportunities

"It is flexible enough to allow us to meet emerging situations [...] but still know that we can continue along our working path with future support."

"Being able to pay peers fairly to lend their voice and share their expertise is a very important part of the work we do."

"Dynamic and collaborative reporting [...] allow[s] our funders to better understand the successes, barriers, and emerging themes in the community within which we work."

Principles



- Community-centered
- Meaningful peer engagement
- Responsive to community-identified needs

Nothing About Us Without Us

"The knowledge exchange opportunities have led to better collaboration provincially [...]. As a service provider in a rural setting, networking and having this level of engagement has been beneficial."

"The Peer Engagement Sessions and Peer Mentorship Bursary program were particularly beneficial to our peer team."

"Getting opportunities to meet others and talk about the work they do helps squash that feeling of hopelessness and replace it with inspiration and perseverance."

Successes & Impacts



[Shifting how we use our OPEN funds] has allowed for community members to become central to their own fight, rather than simply the recipients of services.

We have seen changes in the way other stakeholders look at opioid use disorder. [...] Being able to educate people on what we are doing and why it is necessary has been a huge part of the project.

Participation in OPEN has increased our ability to support our community better through advocacy and action.

The OPEN funding we have received over the years has resulted in stronger relationships between us as a service provider and peers. The support we were able to provide to our peer groups grew into the first drug user organization in the northern region.

[Without OPEN] what I feel will be lost is community members being able to organize among themselves and decide the priorities for action based on their lived experience.

Grants



\$ 2,115,000 in grants have been awarded

Capacity Building & Knowledge Exchange



More than \$400,000+ has been invested into training, capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities

Grantees



- Community coalitions throughout BC comprised of community-based organizations, peer groups, and local stakeholders.
- 26 coalitions have received OPEN grants