Key Recommendations for Overdose Prevention Programs

Excerpt from Qualitative Study of Local Health Department Programs to Prevent Opioid Overdose in North Carolina 2020

- Prioritize **building trust** with the people you are serving, treat them with dignity and respect, and have a willingness to listen.

- Involve **directly impacted people** and people with lived experience in every aspect of implementation.

- Find individuals who can **champion the work** and advocate effectively.

- Building **collaborative partnerships** is key. Make sure you bring everyone to the table from the beginning – public health, EMS, law enforcement, and most importantly community partners.

- **Avoid duplication of efforts** by contracting to organizations in your county who are already engaging in the work, or, if the program does not already exist in your county, connect with organizations in other parts of the state who are engaging in the work.

- Think carefully about **which organization or partner is best suited** to implementing the program.

- Educate everyone on **harm reduction** principles and practices.

- Understand that getting people on board and implementing these programs **takes time**.

For more information, please contact HarmReduction@duke.edu