

Embedding Peers in Emergency Departments (EPED)

In 2023, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), launched the **Embedding Peers in Emergency Departments (EPED)** project. The goal of this project was to build the capacity of local health department (LHD) and ED partnerships to better identify admitted patients who use drugs, pair identified patients with a peer recovery specialist (PRS) to provide education around harm reduction and MOUD, provide initial MOUD induction for eligible and interested patients, and make linkages to on-going community care post-discharge.

To ensure that awarded LHD and ED partnerships were properly supported during program development, launch, and monitoring, NACCHO partnered with the subject matter expert [The Mosaic Group](#), a management-consulting firm with expertise in community health and human-services strategies, program design, and evaluation, to provide intensive technical assistance to these new programs.

From February 2023 through June 2024, NACCHO provided up to \$300,000 in funding to five (5) LHDs and their hospital partners to sustain and expand these ED-based programs.

Project Sites:

- Grays Harbor County Public Health, WA
- Fulton County Board of Health, GA
- Kane County Health Department, IL
- Lorain County Public Health, OH
- City of New Bedford Health Department, MA