

Sustaining Peers in Emergency Departments (S-PED)

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 **Sustaining Peers in Emergency Departments (S-PED)** project. The goal of this project was to provide support to sustain and expand already launched programs aimed at improving care for PWUD in EDs. These programs had developed protocols 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.

While these programs had already launched independently, S-PED provided time and funding for them to expand program activities, streamline processes, evaluate outcomes, and secure sustainable funding.

From April 2023 through March 2024, NACCHO provided \$300,000 in funding to five (5) LHDs and their hospital partners to sustain and expand these ED-based programs. Representatives from each site attended a demonstration site visit at UPenn to learn from their program and partnerships with local treatment and service providers.

Project Sites:

- Cecil County Health Department, MD
- Hamilton County Public Health, OH
- Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Region V, LA
- Jefferson County Department of Health, AL
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health, PA