



In-home Opioid Medication Disposal Project

Educating and supporting the community regarding the safe disposal of unwanted/unused medication responsibly and effectively from home

Overview of Needs/Gaps: Education regarding safe opioid disposal and access to in-home medication disposal products can help ensure Salt Lake County residents have the opportunity to responsibly and conveniently dispose of unwanted and unused prescription medications. Appropriate disposal of these medications can be a piece of the overall prevention approach to addressing the opioid overdose epidemic in our communities. Current personal disposal options are available at secure drop box locations throughout the county, including law enforcement offices and pharmacies. Additionally, several communities partner with law enforcement to offer one-time “take back events” where residents can drop off unwanted medications for appropriate disposal.

Proposed Budget: \$500,000

for

Kit Distribution: Kits, distribution of kits, and project management

Educational Campaign: Dissemination of information, advertising, materials, and analytics reporting

Summary:

At the request of the Mayor's office in response to concerns expressed by Councilmembers, the Health Department (SLCoHD) is proposing the establishment of an in-home disposal program, funded through opioid settlement dollars. The proposal consists of two primary components, 1) distributing in-home disposal kits to Salt Lake County residents for their personal use and 2) a public education campaign to raise awareness of the program and other options for safely disposing of unused medications.

In-home Disposal Kits: In-home disposable kits can offer a safe, convenient, and effective way to dispose of personal medications. The FDA provides guidance to safely dispose of opioid medications in your trash at home. Several products are currently on the market in the form of a pouch or envelope that contains a medication deactivating agent. Individuals place their medications in the pouch, add water to trigger the deactivating agent, seal the pouch, and dispose of it with the household trash. SLCoHD will issue an RFA to purchase in-home disposal kits from a qualified vendor, utilizing SLCoHD subject matter experts to ensure the RFA contains appropriate product and vendor requirements. Kits will be distributed by SLCoHD through the following avenues:

- On-line request
- Community events
- SLCoHD clinic locations
- Other county-owned facilities, i.e., libraries, senior centers, Meals on Wheels (AAS program)
- Opioid overdose data can be used to target distribution in high-incidence areas and to at-risk populations

Public Education: SLCoHD is proposed a robust public education campaign to familiarize county residents with the availability of in-home disposal kits and educate on the why, when, and how to use in-home disposal kits. The campaign will need to be established to raise awareness of the program. The Department will work with a contracted vendor to develop the elements of a campaign, including:

- Website for ordering kits and disseminating general information
- Social media content
- Other advertising, i.e., TV, billboards, digital
- Collateral materials – print materials, brochures
- Project analytics and reporting