



Community Bridge to Treatment Program

Meeting individuals in crisis where they are, bringing the ED Bridge directly to the streets

Overview of Needs/Gaps: A current gap in supporting individuals experiencing an opioid overdose are those who overdose in the community, are resuscitated by EMS, then refuse to go to the emergency department (ED). To fill that gap, this pilot program will literally bring services to the individual rather than the individual entering the ED. The current brick-and-mortar Bridge Program only sees and supports individuals who do enter the emergency department.

Proposed Budget: \$240,000

University of Utah Medical Team	\$80,000
USARA (Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness)	\$160,000

Summary:

At the request of the Mayor's office to provide access to treatment for those struggling with substance use and misuse, the Human Service Department supports the Community Bridge Program. This 2-year pilot program is an expansion of the current brick-and-mortar Bridge Program provided by the University of Utah (via HMHI), and USARAs Addiction Recovery Coaching in Healthcare (ARCHES) team.

Currently, if an individual overdoses and enters the University of Utah emergency department, they can be referred to Bridge where they receive medical care through designated physicians, case management by HMHI, and peer support from USARA's Arches Team. The pilot program expansion will occur through Salt Lake City EMS and West Valley EMC, whose current medical directors are the U of U physicians managing the Bridge Program. The following is an overview of program operations:

- EMS responds to 911 call received for a person experiencing a suspected drug overdose.
- EMS identifies opioid overdose and naloxone is administered to initiate overdose reversal.
- If patient stabilizes and is assessed as an eligible Bridge participant, a referral to Bridge physician for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment is requested.
- EMS will initiate on-call response from USARA ARCHES Recovery Support Coach/Team
- USARA, EMS provide support for patient along with detailed information about opioid medication treatment initiated with the Community Bridge program and offers to assist them with program enrollment.
- If patient accepts, EMS will administer first dose of buprenorphine alleviates patient's withdrawal symptoms and initiates medically assisted treatment (MAT).
- USARA supports provides contact information for follow-up recovery support and/or additional resources, including referral to the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI) Addiction Recovery ("Bridge") Clinic.
- Patient continues medical OUD treatment through U of U and addiction recovery through HIMH, and USARA provides the peer support to stay enrolled, motivated and engaged in treatment.

Community Bridge meets individuals where the overdose occurs and before it becomes fatal. It provides a continuum of care through treatment and peer support, and ultimately reduces overdose deaths. The proposed funding covers personal and operations for physician management and peer support. As well as the capacity to help 400-500 patients.