



Summary

Fentanyl Fathers is asking for \$87,518 in operational support for its High School Assembly Program. Fentanyl Fathers is a coalition of bereaved parents who have lost a child or loved one to an opioid overdose. We work to raise the awareness of adolescents to the dangers of fentanyl, its prevalence, and how to recognize and respond to an overdose using high school assembly presentations. Fentanyl Fathers currently serves adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 years old in communities across Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Washington DC and Alaska. Our goal is to expand into all 50 states by 2026.

Vision & Mission Statement

To create a world where no adolescent dies of poisoning or overdose from fentanyl by ensuring every adolescent in America is aware of the threat fentanyl and counterfeit pills pose to them, their susceptibility to a life-ending overdose, signs of an overdose, and how to respond to a witnessed overdose.

Program Description: 45 minutes | [DOA](#) | [LIVE](#) | [FACTS](#) | [PPT](#)

Goals and Outcomes

The specific goals of the Fentanyl Fathers High School Assembly Program is to enroll and train bereaved parent volunteers to conduct 276 high school assemblies, educate and raise awareness about fentanyl for 126,793 student attendees, and distribute naloxone kits into every interested household across four states in its first year. If these outputs are made feasible with pilot program funding, overdose mortality rate among adolescents to decrease by 10% within 2 years of program implementation.

Activities and Services

Fentanyl Fathers's high school assembly program works to achieve its mission by contacting high schools in communities that have been impacted by the death of a high school student or recent graduate who is suspected or confirmed to have died from fentanyl. We then contact the superintendent of the high school to provide information about our program's mission and objectives. This outreach is usually followed by a preliminary meeting with the parents, the school administrators, or both to garner approval for the assembly presentation we plan to show to their students. We then offer an opportunity for households to receive naloxone through our program, or tell families where they can obtain naloxone in the community as a means to reduce access barriers to a life saving medication.

After the preliminary meeting with parents and school administrators we schedule an assembly for the students. We then assign one to two bereaved parent volunteers to lead each 45-minute assembly. The parent-volunteer(s) open the assembly with their personal testimony focused on how the opioid epidemic cut their own child's life short. The students are then educated about what fentanyl and counterfeit pills are, how fentanyl can kill anyone with first use, and how to recognize and respond to an overdose. The introductory educational slides are then followed by a 20-minute video documentary called "Dead on Arrival" which presents additional information about fentanyl through the lens of four bereaved families. The documentary provides impactful testimony that aligns with our program objectives, and is evidenced to resonate with high school audiences. Each assembly ends with a Q&A discussion closing with attendees saying, "I'll never try so I'll never die from fentanyl."

Evaluation

The impact of the assembly is then measured using pre and post test survey data which is collected from the students to measure the short term attitude, and intermediate behavioral outcomes of the program. Survey data is then analyzed to identify statistically significant attitude and behavior changes that resulted from our program. Epidemiological trends related to overdose mortality rates, and incident rates in the adolescent population are then followed to determine if the program's intervention contributed to significant positive health impacts in the communities that it has served.