



HEROIN OPIOID PREVENTION & EDUCATION

HOPE TASKFORCE



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HOPE Taskforce Awards Over \$100,000 to Address the Opioid Crisis in DuPage County

DUPAGE COUNTY—The DuPage County Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce announced today the award of grants to organizations to expand their capabilities in the fight against the opioid crisis in the County.

The grant awardees and a brief description of each project are below:

- **Gateway Foundation – Expanding Behavioral Health Treatment Options** - \$20,330. The funds will help expand treatment options by introducing Low Energy Neurofeedback System (LENS) therapy to individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorder and/or frequently co-occurring mental health issues.
- **Serenity House Counseling Services, Inc. – Prevention Education Program and Grief Group** - \$32,425. The grant will support substance use disorder prevention education to youth in middle schools, high schools, and universities.
- **516 Light Foundation – Sober Home Hope** - \$10,000. The funds will support individuals from relapsing after completing a treatment program by providing support to those in need of funds for a sober living home.
- **Serenity House (Lead), Prevention Leadership Team, NAMI – Teen Ambassadors Project for Mental Health, Substance Use Prevention, and Stigma Reduction** - \$50,000. The grant will support and engage teen volunteers to act as substance use prevention, mental wellness, and stigma reduction peer support ambassadors. Funds will also be used for a mass media stigma reduction campaign, support social norming campaigns, and education to raise community awareness about mental health and substance use prevention for youth.

“In DuPage the opioid crisis impacts residents from all age groups, backgrounds and income levels,” said Greg Hart, DuPage County Board Member and HOPE Taskforce Co-chair. “Our new grant projects will expand DuPage’s efforts to reduce substance use disorder and save lives through innovative solutions that leverage public, private and non-profit partnerships.”

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The grant funding is made possible by the DuPage County Board, which has agreed to double the resources from \$100,000 to \$200,000 this year to support the work of the HOPE Taskforce. These funds allow the DuPage Community, through the HOPE Taskforce, to promote creative, effective programming delivered by organizations who work every day with individuals working toward recovery. The investment of the County's funds is in addition to the millions of dollars that DuPage County organizations have received, which comes with specific, prescribed interventions that must be followed.

"We seek to ensure any individuals impacted by the disease of addiction, have full access to substance use prevention, education, treatment and recovery services equal to that of other diseases," said Dr. Lanny Wilson, DuPage County Board of Health Vice President and HOPE Taskforce Co-chair. "We have a culture of collaboration philosophy in DuPage and our new projects will broaden the impact of Taskforce efforts."

The HOPE Taskforce has reserved a portion of the allocated resources from the County Board to fund a second round of grant opportunities in the fall.

The DuPage County HOPE Taskforce is an interagency, interdisciplinary advisory group responsible for advising DuPage County elected leaders on needed program development, supporting infrastructure, and policy recommendations to address DuPage County's opioid issue. To learn more about the HOPE Taskforce, please visit <https://hopedupage.org/>.

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