

Regional Working Group Participation Guide

Local Leadership United (LLU) Phase 2: Building *Whole-Community* Overdose Response

Context

[Local Leadership United \(LLU\)](#) has conducted extensive engagement with local governments and key health/community partners around how local governments can better engage in coordinated overdose response efforts. The [LLU evaluation](#) identified the need for improved intersectoral collaboration and strategic engagement to bring more people into the conversation. Together, improved community engagement around complex issues and stronger partnerships can advance a *whole-community* overdose response with the entire community working together in a manner that reflects the magnitude of the Unregulated Drug Poisoning Crisis.

Community Action Teams (CATs) are well positioned to sustainably support local government and broader community engagement in overdose response by uniting key partners around shared goals and facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and community engagement.

Project Goals

In the next stage of LLU, CAI will focus on providing direct support to five CATs around the province to strategically develop stronger partnerships and conduct the community-engagement required to build a *whole-community* overdose response. This project recognizes we need innovative ways to bring more people into the conversation and will hold space for local expertise to inform new approaches. **Building on existing work led by CATs in these areas**, the goals of this work are to:

1. Develop strategic plans for CATs around partnership development and community engagement.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local governments and other key partners in their communities who need to be engaged in an effective *whole-community* overdose response.
3. Support meaningful engagement of broader communities in overdose response efforts to shift the conversation to one in which the health needs of people who use drugs are aligned with the needs of broader communities.

LLU Regional Working Groups

LLU regional working groups will be co-created & co-chaired by CAI and CAT leadership. They will facilitate dialogue with key partners, strategize about community values that offer opportunities to engage, and plan engagements (max 6 people).

Working groups will plan and attend the two engagements outlined below (estimated 4-5 one-hour meetings to plan each engagement).

Outcomes

Partnership Development & Community Engagement Strategic Plans

Dialogue events, evaluation, research and collaboration between CAI and regional working groups will result in **partnership development & community engagement strategic plans** that will help guide the work of each CAT over the next few years. **Building on existing work by CATs in these areas**, these strategic plans will include:

1. Partnership development priorities and plans.
2. Key messaging specific to local community values/context around the crisis, response and work of the CAT.
3. Knowledge translation tools to support CATs and advance their work in the region.
4. Priority areas to advance community-level conversations and how to keep people connected to the response.

CAT Showcase/Community Catalyst Activities

Regional working groups & CAI will co-plan and co-host community engagement events meant to showcase the work they are doing locally and invite new partners & broader communities into a coordinated, *whole-community* overdose response. These events will catalyze the implementation of the partnership development & community development strategic plans and **will be integrated into existing work led by CATs in these areas**.

The format of events will be determined by regional working groups and informed by collaboration on the provincial working group. Regional working groups will be encouraged to be creative and attempt innovative engagement strategies to bring new partners/community members into the conversation in a way that grows existing response efforts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Noah Chalifoux, Project Manager, Community Development, CAI, nchalifoux@caibc.ca