

# SIX WAYS TO RESPOND

## SIMPLE STEPS TO START A PARISH OPIOID/SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER MINISTRY

### **Pray**

- Remember those who are affected by the opioid and substance use disorder crisis in your Prayers of the People on Sunday morning.
- Consider holding special recovery worship service to support those impacted by the opioid and substance use disorder crisis.

### **Open Your Doors**

- Host recovery support meetings at your church. These include 12 step programs and others like Celebrate Recovery, a Christian recovery program.
- Post recovery meeting information on your bulletin boards, in your restrooms, in your Sunday bulletins, on your website, and in your newsletters.

### **Increase Awareness**

- Bring in speakers on recovery, addiction prevention, and pain-management options from the local community for an Adult Forum or other educational event.
- Host a parish book study or movie night using a book or movie on the opioid or substance use disorder crisis.

### **Build Community Capacity**

- Host a training to teach people how to identify and reverse opioid overdose with Narcan/naloxone.
- Contact your local health department and offer to host a Mental Health First Aid training.

### **Rebuild and Restore**

- Support individuals and families through local food, housing, or employment assistance programs.
- Partner with the community to support foster families by organizing a clothing or child care product drive.

### **Connect and Collaborate**

- Find a local recovery community organization in your area and ask them how your parish can support the work they do.
- Ask your diocesan staff if they know of other parishes who have active opioid/substance use disorder ministries. Reach out to them and work together!

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**For more resources and ideas**, visit the General Convention Task Force to Respond to the Opioid Epidemic Website: <http://generalconvention.org/sites/opioid-task-force> and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Recovery Ministry page: <https://www.brothersandrew.net/Ministries/recovery.html>