More than 49,000 people died of an opioid overdose in 2017, making it one of the deadliest public health crises in the U.S. Of the millions suffering, most do not have access to high-quality treatment that could help them manage their disease. Critical barriers include a lack of quality treatment providers, gaps in insurance coverage, and public policies that criminalize addiction.

The goal of Arnold Ventures’ opioids portfolio is to save lives and reduce the economic, social, and criminal justice costs of the opioid epidemic. Research shows that a combination of medication and behavioral support (medication-assisted treatment) is the most effective way to treat the disorder. We work to expand access to medication-assisted treatment and to reorient care around chronic disease management practices. The bulk of our funding to date has supported research to identify effective treatment delivery models, projects to increase coverage of high-quality treatment through payer policy reforms, and model laws and policies to expand access to medication-assisted treatment in the criminal justice and child welfare systems. We also fund research on harm reduction-oriented interventions that aim to prevent overdose deaths and reduce the spread of communicable diseases. To date, we have invested approximately $15M over 2.5 years to help address the opioid crisis.

Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy dedicated to tackling some of the most pressing problems in the United States. We invest in sustainable change, building it from the ground up based on research, deep thinking, and a strong foundation of evidence. We drive public conversation, craft policy, and inspire action through education and advocacy.