

Cardea Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

We believe that organizations thrive by integrating principles of social justice and cultural proficiency into all aspects of their work. For more than 45 years, Cardea has envisioned communities where all people, especially those who have been most underserved, have equitable access to quality health and human services.

Cardea's mission is to provide training, organizational development, and research and evaluation services to improve organizations' abilities to deliver accessible, high quality, culturally proficient, and compassionate services to their clients. Cardea will build on this mission to further the efforts of the *Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic*.

Cardea is committed to:

- Create space to acknowledge the criminalization approach that was historically used to address substance use disorder crises and collect lessons from that history to drive equitable solutions to the current opioid crisis;
- Promote trauma-informed practices and address stigma by enhancing awareness of basic concepts and myths about addiction; unconscious bias; and person-centered language and methods to actively and empathetically engage with clients around opioid use;
- Support and evaluate learning communities, ECHO models, and face-to-face and on-line trainings to educate health professionals and community health workers in non-traditional settings (schools, WIC, community health centers, tribal communities) on screening, brief intervention and motivational interviewing techniques and tools that are appropriate for targeted populations;
- Help build on existing medical history tools and practices to identify additional opportunities to screen for opioid and other substance misuse; what to do if there are concerns about misuse, addiction and potential overdose; and how and where to refer;
- Enhance awareness of policies and practices that can be adopted in primary care and non-traditional settings to prevent opioid misuse and overdose deaths; and
- Leverage and connect intersecting HIV and Hep-C prevention, intervention and treatment efforts.

Countering the opioid epidemic is a key focus for Cardea. In alignment with the guiding principles of the Action Collaborative, Cardea will promote health equity, inclusivity, inter-disciplinary approaches, collaboration, evidence-based practices, evaluation, and impact.