

# CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH MILKEN INSTITUTE

## Opioid Crisis Response Incubator

When you think of your future, how far out do you look?

For most people, the average is about five years.

For an opioid addict, it's *nine days*.

In 2017, nearly 50,000 people died from opioid-related overdoses – more than 130 individuals per day. What's worse, the problem is trending steeply in the wrong direction, having nearly tripled in the past decade and doubled just in the past few years. Opioid deaths now outnumber automobile accidents and gun deaths, and there's no reliable data to suggest how many deaths classified as accidents and suicides are also linked to addiction.

In short, we face an unprecedented addiction and overdose epidemic, with numerous causes and incalculable social costs as measured by the loss of mothers and fathers, sons and daughters and loved ones.

Imagine the outcry if we lost one commercial airliner per day in the U.S. That's happening, and the Milken Institute Center for Public Health aims to elevate this challenge to the emergency status it merits.

Over the past several years, the Center has initiated opioid programs with government agencies (HHS, NIH, CDC, DEA, and the Surgeon General's office); state and local officials (governors, mayors, and community health leaders); hospital systems; schools of public health; technology companies; and insurers.

Having now assembled partners with the ability to effect change and having established the framework for how to implement that change, the Center is launching a program to turn the tide on this epidemic.

The **Opioid Crisis Response Incubator** will translate the Center's efforts to-date into clinical trials to advance the most effective strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic. We identify gaps and accelerate evidence-based approaches.

We aim to raise \$2.85 million over the next three years to support and expand enter's efforts to reduce the human and economic suffering caused by the opioid crisis. Specifically, we're funding the following named chairs:

- » Senior Director to oversee the strategic expansion and direction of the investment and innovation areas of the Opioid Crisis Response program with a background in finance, entrepreneurship, biomedical research, medical product industry, or regulation (3 years @ \$300/year)
- » Program Director to lead efforts in the public safety and access areas by continuing engagement with government agencies, businesses, non-profits, and community leaders and seeking new partners. (3 years @ \$200k/year)
- » 3 Senior Fellows to publish, research, and identify critical thought-leadership opportunities, particularly regarding the relationship of substance misuse, mental health, and stigma. Each Fellow will have background expertise in science, medicine, biomedical research, or community leadership.

- » **1 Fellow**

- Stigma associated with opioid addiction  
3 years @ \$150k/year

- » **1 Fellow**

- Opioid Misuse  
3 years @ \$150k/year

- » **1 Fellow**

- Science of Addiction  
3 years @ \$150k/year