



DCHHS
Dallas County Health and Human Services
Healthy People Healthy Communities
Health and Social Equity



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dallas County Announces Expansion of Overdose Response Team to Five Cities

Dallas, TX – October 8, 2025 — Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) and Recovery Resource Council (RRC) announced today the expansion of the Dallas County Overdose Response Team (ORT) to five additional cities: Irving, Richardson, Garland, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch. Contracts are underway to expand the program to additional cities in Dallas County.

The expansion comes at a critical time. In 2024, Dallas County reported 558 overdose deaths, underscoring that overdoses remain a persistent crisis across the region. Fentanyl continues to be the primary driver of these fatalities, now accounting for the majority of opioid-related deaths in North Texas.

“Too often, overdose survivors don’t make it to the hospital or don’t know where to turn for help,” said Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS Director. “The Overdose Response Team brings resources, hope, and real solutions right to their doorstep.”

“Substance use doesn’t just impact individuals—it fractures families and communities. We believe every person deserves dignity, compassion, and a chance to recover,” said Becky Tinney, Special Projects Director at Recovery Resource Council. “With this expansion, the Overdose Response Team can reach more people with the kind of connection that helps begin the healing process.”

How the Program Works

The Dallas County ORT pairs a Registered Nurse with a Peer Support Specialist to provide compassionate, immediate follow-up care for individuals who have recently survived an overdose. Using 911 call data provided by participating cities, the team conducts in-person visits to:

- Provide physical health checks
- Train individuals and households on how to administer Narcan and perform basic CPR
- Distribute Narcan kits free of charge
- Offer connections to treatment and recovery programs when individuals are ready

The program builds on a proven model used in the City of Dallas, which has distributed more than 1,000 Narcan kits and directly linked hundreds of residents to recovery services.

“With the expansion of the regional Overdose Response Team, Carrollton can address overdoses more effectively, reducing preventable deaths, and supporting long-term solutions for those at risk,” said Carrollton Fire Chief Michael Thomson.

“The Richardson Fire Department is excited to partner with Dallas County to provide this new service to our community,” said Richardson Fire Chief Curtis Poovey.



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The expansion is fully funded by DCHHS through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant, ensuring no cost to the participating jurisdictions.

Looking Ahead

As overdoses remain a persistent public health crisis across communities, DCHHS and RRC plan to replicate the ORT model in more communities across the county. The goal is to ensure every jurisdiction has access to this critical, lifesaving program.

To learn how your city can participate in the Overdose Response Team, please contact Katy Womble at katy.womble@dallascounty.org.

The ORT Expansion Project is supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the *Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities* (OD2A: LOCAL) grant.

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