

# EMPOWERING FAITH LEADERS TO ADDRESS ADDICTION AND THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

CLINTON  
GLOBAL  
INITIATIVE  
OVERDOSE RESPONSE NETWORK

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY | JANUARY 2025 - JUNE 2025 | PORTLAND, OREGON

The U.S. overdose crisis is among the most pressing and indiscriminate health challenges of our time. Nearly 108,000 Americans died from drug overdose in 2022. One life lost due to overdose is one too many, and more must be done to save lives.

Faith leaders are a trusted source of support and information, and can influence attitudes and practices at the individual, household, and community-levels. Faith leaders can use their unique and powerful platform to shatter the stigma that all too often keeps addiction in the shadows and blocks access to supportive resources. When faith leaders know how to respond they become a vital part of the solution to ending addiction and the overdose crisis.

## WHAT IS THE EMPOWERING FAITH LEADERS PROGRAM?

The Clinton Foundation works in collaboration with state and local partners to train faith leaders to address addiction and the overdose crisis using evidence-informed and compassionate approaches.

The program is free of cost. Faith leaders who participate:

- Build knowledge, skills, and confidence to address addiction and the overdose crisis.
- Learn about local prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction resources.
- Receive \$2,000.00 in funding and technical support to plan and implement community-based engagement projects to raise awareness, share resources, and reduce stigma.
- Explore how different faith traditions view substance use, addiction and recovery, and build bridges across communities.
- Join a state-wide and national network of faith leaders working to address the issues.

## HOW IS THE EMPOWERING FAITH LEADERS PROGRAM TAUGHT?

The Clinton Foundation and other experts lead a cohort of faith leaders through learning sessions — virtual and in-person — over six months. Learning sessions are two to four hours in length.

Faith leaders receive education and training on a wide range of topics related to addiction, become trainers in naloxone administration, learn how to combat stigma, and connect with local service providers.

**“This process has been very enriching. It enabled me to have the skills to allow me to talk to the community members in a language they understand. To be able to relate to them at a down-to-earth level. Yes, I do have the scientific background, the religious background, but truly, the realistic language that everyone would need, is something I learned here.”**



– Imam Dr. Basem Hamid,  
Founder and Director of  
Wasat Institute (Houston)

## LEARNING SESSION DATES AND TIMES

Meeting locations are TBD

- January 28 at 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
- February 18 at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (virtual)
- March 18 at 12:00 - 3:00 (in-person)
- March 20 at 12:00 - 3:00 (in-person)
- April 15 at 12:00 - 2:00 (virtual)
- May 20 at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (virtual)
- May 22 at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (virtual)
- June 24 at 12:00 - 3:00 (in-person)

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Order of modules is subject to change.

**MODULE 1:** Overview of the Overdose Crisis and Program Components

**MODULE 2:** Science of Addiction, Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training

**MODULE 3:** Interfaith Dialogue and Collaboration

**MODULE 4:** Addressing Stigma from the Pulpit and Beyond and Spiritual Caregiving for Individuals and Families Impacted by Addiction

**MODULE 5:** Community-Based Engagement Project Planning

**MODULE 6:** Treating Substance Use Disorders, Reducing Harm and Saving Lives

**MODULE 7:** Recovery from Substance Use Disorders

**MODULE 8:** Community-Based Engagement Project Outcomes and Sustainability Plans

**“What I’ve learned the most here, and from this group, is seeing about recovery through other denominations, through other faith groups; how it’s looked at sometimes differently. That’s been very eye opening for me. Plus, this is a great experience to share with other faith groups: how to work on this together.”**

– Rev. Dr. Joanna Seibert, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (Little Rock)

## WHAT ARE COMMUNITY-BASED ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS?

Each faith leader involved in the program receives \$2,000.00 in funding and technical support to plan and execute a community-based engagement project to bring the information and resources back to their community. For example, faith leaders organize trainings on how to recognize and reverse an opioid overdose and make naloxone available to their communities.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The Clinton Foundation is recruiting 20 faith leaders from across faith traditions to participate. Faith leaders from Portland who meet the following criteria should complete a brief application.

- Commitment to addressing addiction and the overdose crisis in their communities.
- A strong desire to learn about addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery from experts and peers.
- Willingness to reflect upon and share the ways in which religious belief and practice influence the attitudes and behaviors related to addiction.
- Enthusiasm about interfaith dialogue and collaboration.
- Ability to attend and actively participate in all learning sessions.
- Commitment to planning and executing a community-based engagement project — virtual or in-person — during the program.



**APPLY HERE**