Rhode Island has been significantly impacted by the opioid epidemic, ranking 11th in rate of unintentional drug overdoses in the US in 2017. The RI Department of Health piloted a multidisciplinary drug overdose death review team. Mini-grants were offered to community based organizations as a novel way to fund the recommendations from the review team.

Rhode Island’s approach to this review process included:

**ESTABLISHING PROGRAM GOALS**
1. Data review by diverse group
2. Identify gaps and make recommendations
3. Distribute funds to support interventions at community level

**ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY AND MEMBER PROTECTION**
RI used contracts between state agencies and institutions in its pilot phase. Legislation was passed to establish protections and expand membership in 2018.

**CREATING A TEAM**
Membership represented diverse stakeholders.

**THEMES**
- Fentanyl-related deaths
- Overdoses in public locations
- Overdoses with novel fentanyl analogues
- Overdoses among recently incarcerated
- Overdoses among women
- Overdoses among people of color

**SELECTING CASES**
Surveillance data was used to determine a theme for each meeting.

**CONDUCTING REVIEWS & DISEMINATING FINDINGS**
Recommendations for interventions were summarized and shared with partners and posted online.

**ADVANCING RECOMMENDATIONS WITH MINI-GRAINS**
Small grants of $5,000 or less were available to community based organizations after each meeting for implementation of recommendations. Grant process was competitive.


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