



# 2018 PRIORITIES *CITIZENS' RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC*

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## **INTERNAL**

- Raise \$175,000 in dues, grants and contributions to enable us to expand our staff and multiply our impact.
- Recruit new congregations and nonprofits to participate in this effort.
- Expand our leadership team and provide introductory training for dozens of new leaders.

## **EXTERNAL**

- Respond more effectively to the fentanyl overdose emergency:
  - Use our clergy and religious voices to highlight the harm reduction actions urgently needed to save the lives of opioid users.
  - Work with allies to develop effective strategies and practical tools to educate substance users on the reality of fentanyl in street drugs of all kinds.
- Expand our work with hospitals, doctors and other health professionals:
  - Bring hundreds of doctors to our conference with Cold Spring Harbor Lab highlighting proven practices to reduce opioid overprescribing, provide opioid-free pain management, change ER protocols, and provide effective opioid addiction treatment.
  - Build relationships with hospital executives and other medical leaders and support their implementation of new ER protocols and other needed changes.
- Expand our work with public schools and youth:
  - Ask more superintendents to adopt the Educational Leaders' Commitments to Help End the Opioid Epidemic.
  - Work with superintendents and other educators to support their implementation of these commitments.
  - Work with student leaders to organize an Island-wide Student Congress on Substance Use to highlight and launch effective student-led efforts.
- Ask Congress, the drug industry and the insurance industry to do their parts to end this epidemic:
  - Ask our Congressional delegation to support our Opioid Superfund proposal and other concrete steps to clean up the damage done by opioid producers.
  - Seek direct discussions with leaders in the insurance and drug industries.
- Help strengthen Long Island's addiction treatment and recovery infrastructure:
  - Work with allies to evaluate Long Island's sober homes and improve their performance (as LI-CAN did a decade ago).
  - Organize one or more events for families highlighting the full spectrum of available treatment options, including alternatives to abstinence-based treatments.
- Continue work inside our congregations to break the stigma surrounding addiction and mental health, educate families and youth, and carry out targeted events to achieve local impacts.