



Live4Lali Strategic Plan 2026-2029

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Mission

A world in which we prevent harmful substance use when we can and offer compassionate support to reduce risks among individuals, families, and communities when we can't.

Vision

Live4Lali works to reduce stigma, prevent harmful substance use whenever possible, and minimize the health, legal, and social harms associated with substance use through compassionate, evidence-based education, outreach, harm reduction, and peer support.

Focus Areas

- Education
- Advocacy
- Peer to Peer Support
- Harm Reduction

Education

Live4Lali increases knowledge of drug trends, substance use and risk reduction through educational programs for the general public, substance users, impacted families, and professional groups.

- Continue to prioritize overdose education, naloxone distribution and other risk reduction strategies in our peer-to-peer support community including families, community partners, organizations and corporations.
- Disseminate overdose education programming and training to police departments and school districts.
- Expand fentanyl and risk reduction education to schools in areas we serve.
- Expand Stigma and Language training to families, communities, treatment providers, medical providers, and law enforcement.
- Annually create marketing campaigns and outreach strategies to target key audiences.

- Maintain a database of treatment resources, medical and mental health professionals working with those impacted, various media groups, and legislators.
- Enhance Live4Lali's presence at issue-relevant community events, conferences, and meetings.
- Provide presentations for a myriad of stakeholders.
- Identify high needs communities to implement overarching strategy
- Supply direct information to substance users and families to assist them in achieving their goals.
- Improve volunteer engagement and continued learning opportunities for internal and external audiences.
- Collaborate with local, county, state, and national entities to identify trends in order to inform future programming needs.
- Establish a person-first language guide and training programs to eliminate the stigmatizing nature of labeling people who use substances.
- Assess and measure the impact of ongoing strategies and the unique needs of each individual community across every municipality in the State of Illinois. across
- Gauge outcomes through a newly implemented data analysis program.
- Utilize digital tools to collect information about online trends.
- Collaborate with community partners to provide educational forums that increase public awareness of emerging substance use trends, available resources, evidence-based risk reduction strategies, and pathways to recovery.

Advocacy

Influence the public and private sectors regarding: (1) substance use, (2) treatment options and pathways, (3) risk reduction strategies, (3) drug policy reform by amplifying the needs, voices and experiences of impacted individuals, families, and communities as advised by the community with lived/living experience.

Annually develop our advocacy implementation plan focused on addressing the following key issues:

- Decriminalizing all currently illicit substances and replacing present incarceration systems with comprehensive, individualized mental health response programs.
- Protecting the rights of substance users and their families, and reducing harms

associated with substance use and misuse.

- Increasing public access to naloxone/Narcan, the opioid overdose antagonist.
- Increasing public access to drug checking via Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy, or other systems, including available drug testing strips.
- Ensuring substance use disorder treatment facilities are accessible, affordable, and utilizing evidence-based modalities with exemplary quality standards of care.
- Promoting non-predatory, ethically-based marketing tactics for substance use disorder treatment centers and recovery residences.
- Improving public health outcomes by ensuring that all substance users have access to clean using supplies, and piloting overdose prevention sites in high needs communities.
- Identifying progressive and effective drug policy models nationally and across the globe.
- Improving the quantity, quality, inclusivity, and affordability of recovery residential models, and reducing barriers to accessibility of these residences by specifically mandating that all recovery homes are: a) establishing the ability for residents to use medication-assisted treatments and other prescribed psychiatric medications during their stay, b) offering robust continuum of care services, c) incorporating overdose prevention policies, d) promoting various recovery programs and practices in addition to 12-Step, e) not automatically “kicking out” individuals who have a return to use or recurrence or face other barriers associated with the aspects of their recovery, f) inclusive of all demographics, ethnicities, cultures and lifestyles of its tenants. It is also critical that national and state health administrations establish regulations for recovery homes, and enforce protocols to regularly audit and reprimand facilities that violate all regulations.
- Enforcing quick, ethical, and protective health responses to individuals coming through emergency departments for overdose or other health issues related to substance use by: a) providing naloxone to patients and their loved ones, b) offering post-acute withdrawal treatments via medication-assisted treatment in addition to counseling, c) providing the support of a recovery advocate, d) offering linkage and transportation to treatment, and e) doing everything possible to avoid releasing a patient from the ED before care linkages are established.
- Redistributing funding from criminalization activities to treatment, education and

risk reduction initiatives, which aid in reducing recidivism, and bolstering resiliency.

- Implementing evidence-based policies to ensure jails and prisons are establishing: a) an appropriate compassion-based culture and environment for inmates with mental health disorders, b) a plethora of options for treatment and recovery programming, c) risk reduction services for justice-involved populations currently serving time or post-release, specifically naloxone access and linkages to housing, employment, legal, and mental health services, d) access to psychiatric or addiction medicine physicians/physician assistants, e) initiation or continuation of psychiatric and/or medications for opioid use disorder.
- Educating the robust law enforcement and legal community regarding compassionate interactions with substance users and innovative programs to link people to care, including diversion program education and funding.
- Strengthening the 911 Good Samaritan Law to eliminate possible misuse of the law by law enforcement through eliminating the ability to prosecute for violent crimes such as manslaughter, aggravated battery, drug-induced homicide, and any other laws implying an individual present at any overdose participated in violence or attempted murder towards the individual who overdosed.
- Ensuring that participants of safe supply programs are not continually arrested and/or prosecuted for possessing paraphernalia.
- Utilize effective partnerships to drive our efforts.
- Build and strengthen collaborations with local, state, and national policy groups, nonprofit organizations, coalitions, health departments, mental health boards, legal advocacy organizations, and advocacy committees to advance evidence-based policies that improve health, reduce stigma, and strengthen support for individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use.

Peer to-Peer Support

Assist impacted individuals and families through services that increase social support, enhance resilience, and strengthen positive health and behavioral change.

- Implement projects and programs that maximize organizational impact and drive measurable outcomes for our patients and families.

- Expand SMART Recovery, adding additional meetings and venues to all territories Live4Lali serves.
- Market all support opportunities to various audiences including recovery residences, hospitals and other health agencies, counselors and therapists, community centers (park districts, libraries, YMCA's), police and fire departments, and corporations.
- Measure and disseminate evaluative impact findings from programmatic activities.
- Gauge outcomes through newly implemented data analysis program.
- Provide surveys to participants involved in programming to understand their experiences and gauge their preferences.
- Provide surveys to the digital community to understand their needs and identify other services that we do not currently provide.

Risk Reduction

Promote health and risk reduction at the individual, family, and community levels.

- Continue prioritizing overdose prevention and risk reduction training for substance users, their loved ones and social network, as well as targeted professionals; law enforcement, health agencies (public, private, medical and mental) trainings for substance users, their loved ones and social network.
- Partner with county health departments on safe supply and syringe exchange programmatic activities.

The Future of Live4Lali

As Live4Lali enters its 18th year, what should the focus be? Continuing the status quo has never been our style. We believe our greatest impact still lies ahead.

Expansion has never been about growth for growth's sake. It is about reaching more people, families, and communities impacted by substance use. Changing the conversation through

education, compassion, and stigma reduction so people feel safe seeking support, families can heal, and communities can thrive. As Live4Lali grows, we remain committed to ensuring that those with the greatest needs have access to evidence-based prevention, risk reduction, recovery support, and advocacy services.

Live4Lali Objectives:

- **Assess communities across Illinois to identify areas with the greatest need based on substance use, overdose, incarceration, poverty, health inequities, and other social determinants of health.**
- **Research new funding streams at the local, state, and federal levels. As well as developing new private and corporate donor relationships.**
- **Prioritize expansion into historically underserved and marginalized communities that experience disproportionate barriers to care and support.**
- **Allocate resources equitably, recognizing that communities facing the greatest challenges often require the greatest investment.**
- **Develop sustainable partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, public health agencies, and community leaders to ensure services are responsive to each community's unique needs.**
- **Investing where the need is greatest, not simply where services are easiest to provide.**
- **Expand Live4Lali's physical presence by establishing new community hubs in areas with the greatest demonstrated need. Additional brick-and-mortar locations will create a lasting presence within the communities we serve; we can build stronger partnerships, respond more effectively to local needs, and ensure that support is available where and when it is most needed.**

The future of Live4Lali is not defined by the number of counties we serve or the number of offices we open. It is defined by the lives we impact, the communities we strengthen, and the barriers we help remove. As we continue to grow, we will remain grounded in compassion, guided by evidence-based practices, informed by those with lived and living experience, and committed to ensuring that every person is treated with dignity, respect, and hope.