

Questions to Think Through When Considering a Municipal Drug Strategy

Political and Civic Engagement Climate

Is there anyone from the executive branch (or who has municipal decision-making power) that supports this initiative?

Is there at least one elected official willing to champion a Municipal Drug Strategy project?

How has the local media covered problematic drug use in your community?

Are there active civic engagement groups that would participate?

Is your jurisdiction considered a sanctuary city?

Existing Harm Reduction Services

Do you have a local syringe access program?

What is naloxone access like for your community? Who carries naloxone? Police/fire firefighters? People who use drugs/their family members? Pharmacy? Local homeless shelter?

Is there a local harm reduction organization (or social justice) organization that is interested in doing this work as well?

Existing Treatment Services

Are there enough addiction and/or medication assisted treatment providers in your area?

Are there methadone services available in the municipality or surrounding county?

Enforcement Environment

Do you have a local diversion program for drug possession? At what point in the system are people diverted?

Does your local charter include ordinances for drug and paraphernalia possession that differ from state law?

Has your state de-felonized drug possession, i.e. reduced drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor from a felony?

Does your jurisdiction have its own jail?

Continued on next page



Questions to Think Through When Considering a Municipal Drug Strategy

Data

What are the drug arrest numbers (by race, age, gender, geography)?

What is the overdose death rate? HIV rates? Hepatitis C rates?

What are the DUI rates?

What are the unemployment rates?

Is there any recent polling or qualitative data around the perception of drug use and the criminalization of drugs?

Notes