

**Flint
ReCAST**



Context For ReCAST

In late 2015, after over a year of community voiced concern regarding the contamination of drinking water, the Governor of Michigan sought a federal declaration of emergency for the water emergency in Flint. On January 16, 2016, U.S. President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in Michigan as a result of Flint's unsafe drinking water. For Flint residents, the dismissal of community voices of concern, combined with (1) prolonged denial of governmental officials of any problem with the water supply safety, (2) potential cognitive impacts of lead poisoning for Flint children, and (3) sharp and unexpected modifications in daily living required for Flint residents have been traumatic experiences. The Flint Water Emergency was not a single time-limited experience, but rather a chronic situation with long term impacts on the Flint community. Further, Flint has lived with decades of disadvantage, with residents bearing years of affiliated health and societal burdens. These conditions exacerbated multiple behavioral and physical health concerns for both children and adults, and will have lasting effects on health and well-being for the Flint community.

Purpose

The Flint Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma Program (ReCAST) is designed to promote resilience in the Flint community by assisting high risk youth and families, mitigating the impact of trauma, reducing behavioral health inequities, and increasing the opportunities and training for Flint youth through strong community engagement.

ReCAST Communities of Focus

As the project relaunches, the goal is to realign and reaffirm the originally intended Flint ReCAST focus on City of Flint families and youth at increased risk of traumatic stress.



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Opportunities for Resilience

Using a community-engaged model that builds on past partnerships and experience, the city will establish a Community Advisory Board. The purpose of the Flint ReCAST Community Advisory Board is to guide, empower, and promote the work of the ReCAST program in accordance with the specified five project goals, with an emphasis on the focused population of at-risk youth and families impacted by the Flint Water Emergency. The Community Advisory Board and its members should be a multi-sector representation of diverse perspectives and experience in regard to supporting the community at large and the project's focus area of at-risk youth.

Community Vision

A narrative of youth and family success and well-being will unfold through community empowerment, and will build on the voice and resilience of community residents and existing organizations to support the growth of Flint.

Community Partners

Flint ReCAST aims to engage community residents, local community organizations, the health care community, local public and private universities, and local institutions.

Approaches to Resilience

The aims of Flint ReCAST are to:

- Build on an extensive range of local programs and partnerships to empower the Flint community to support at-risk youth and families in developing resilience, reducing violence, and developing a vibrant community.
- Use trauma-informed, evidence based programming to mitigate potential behavioral health impacts of the Flint Water Emergency on Flint youth and families.
- Integrate several evidence-based violence prevention programs to enhance ongoing community-organization led activities to divert high-risk youth from the school to prison pipeline.
- Create a trauma informed first responder community by providing trauma training to local police, first responders, correction officers, etc.
- Increase capacity for youth and families in the Flint community to support skill building and career opportunities through evidenced-based programs.

Programs and Practices

Flint ReCAST Community Advisory Board will review and select programs and practices through community driven processes. Strategies will include trauma-informed approaches applied in community engagement programs, evidence-based violence prevention, and trauma-informed behavioral health services, each being culturally and developmentally appropriate. Peer support models will be a priority consideration. Because of the Flint Water Emergency, the identification and capacity building of trauma-informed practices, including behavioral health resources has already begun.

Flint ReCAST intends to support family strengthening and youth engagement and resilience based on recommendation of the ReCAST steering and community committees, which will identify new and existing (in Flint) programs that are a good fit for Flint, and are evidence supported.

