



# Great Lakes Dryhooch: 2026 Application Overview

## PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Reduce the impact of opioid use disorder (OUD) by providing trauma-informed, peer-led recovery services that connect Veterans and civilians through evidence-based mentoring, healing-centered curricula, and the BattlePeer platform. The project strengthens long-term recovery, expands access to treatment, and improves health outcomes across Milwaukee County.

## INTENDED OUTCOMES

**The project has seven primary goals and outcomes:**

1. Serve approximately 100 participants (60 Veterans and 40 civilians).
2. Train 10 certified Veteran Peer Mentors.
3. Provide weekly one-on-one peer mentoring supported by BattlePeer.
4. Deliver healing-centered group sessions using The Child Speaks and The Community Speaks curricula.
5. Reduce PTSD symptoms, substance use risk, and social isolation.
6. Increase referrals and connections to treatment and community resources.
7. Develop a sustainable, replicable Veteran-civilian peer recovery model.

## SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Recruit participants from Milwaukee County priority ZIP codes.
2. Recruit, train, and supervise Veteran Peer Mentors.
3. Conduct weekly peer mentoring sessions and BattlePeer check-ins.
4. Facilitate trauma-informed healing groups.
5. Conduct community healing workshops and overdose prevention events.
6. Provide warm referrals and wraparound support services.
7. Evaluate program outcomes in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University VITAL Lab.

## TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

### Target Population

- Adults and families affected by opioid use disorder.
- Veterans and justice-involved individuals.
- Residents of ZIP codes 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, and 53215.
- African American and Hispanic communities disproportionately affected by overdose.

### Expected Community Impact:

- Increased recovery engagement and retention.
- Reduced overdose risk and substance use.
- Improved behavioral health and social connectedness.
- Stronger collaboration between Veterans and civilians.
- Expanded access to culturally responsive recovery services.
- A scalable peer recovery model for Wisconsin and beyond.