

**JUNE
2026**

STAR Project MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IOWA
HEALTH CARE

About UI ARC

The University of Iowa's Addiction & Recovery Collaborative (UI ARC) centers its mission on empowering people with substance use disorders through collaborative, innovative, and compassionate care.

UI ARC brings together clinicians, researchers, educators, and recovery advocates to support individuals throughout their recovery journey. Its mission emphasizes creative problem-solving, courage, and inclusive teamwork to drive meaningful change for people affected by addiction.

About UI ARC's New STAR Project

The STAR Project strengthens Iowa's capacity to deliver evidence-based opioid abatement strategies and improve outcomes for people with or at risk of opioid use disorder (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD).

Building on UI ARC's statewide experience, the STAR Project connects and supports teams, organizations, and communities through a coordinated extension service designed to expand knowledge, collaboration, and high-quality care.

The project prioritizes:

- Expanding access to MOUD (medication for opioid use disorder)
- Increasing the number of community programs delivering evidence-based treatment
- Reducing stigma through human-centered messaging, recovery-ready workplaces, and fewer barriers to care
- Strengthening treatment within perinatal care, sober-living settings, and work-release programs

The STAR Project is supported by: IDHSS FY26 Opioid Settlement Funding BHTHPTR26111

Interested in learning more or collaborating?

Email us at UIARC-Outreach@uiowa.edu

Check out our webpage:

<https://uiarc.uiowa.edu/>



INTO LIGHT Updates

The STAR Project funds covered the purchasing of Iowa's INTO LIGHT Continuing the Conversation exhibit.

Comprised of 32 portraits of Iowans who have passed away from an overdose, the exhibit will travel around Iowa to help create discussion about the stigma around addiction.

If you are interested in having the exhibit visit your community or event, please fill out the online form at this link:

**[CLICK HERE TO
FILL OUT OUR SURVEY](#)**



Visit the Into Light Project's homepage:
<https://intolightproject.org/>

Upcoming Events:

Pressing Matters Gallery Exhibit

This summer, a project led by Drs. Nidey and Lynch, hosted by Public Space One on S. Gilbert Street, and funded by our own Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, will focus on art as a means of navigating substance use and recovery. Participants will take free art classes at Public Space One, culminating in a public art exhibition (details below).

The goal, similarly to the INTO LIGHT Project, is to utilize art to de-stigmatize substance use and humanize people struggling with SUD.

Exhibition Gallery Reception

Monday, July 6 // 5-7 PM

PS1 Close House

538 S. Gilbert Street, Iowa City

In addition to displaying works created by the participants in the previous weeks' sessions, we'll also have an on-site art activity for visitors to participate in during the reception. Hope to see you there!

Do you know someone who would like to be added to our email list?

Please reach out to us directly, or respond to this email and feel free to loop them in!