

United Against Fentanyl's Walk for Lives

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE

Problem

Despite unrelenting work to reduce deaths in both public and private sectors, the illicit fentanyl scourge rages out of control. It is the leading cause of fatalities in the U.S. of those 18-45 years old. Over 20 high school students are killed each week, often by laced counterfeit pills. Most do not understand the scale or scope of this public health crisis. And bad actors, foreign and domestic, continue to manufacture, distribute, and sell. **Today approximately one million parents grieve the recent loss of their teenage or young adult child to fentanyl.**

Response - A National Movement of Grassroots Community Organizing Campaigns

A comprehensive plan to significantly reduce fentanyl deaths in the form of hundreds of community-based awareness/educational campaigns in all 50 states on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. with three afternoon large scale stage events in NYC and LA to be broadcast digitally.

Scope - Building Resilient and Sustainable Communities, Nationwide

To provide lifesaving awareness, education, and resources while creating sustainable networks and partnerships with private and public organizations—penetrating hundreds of vulnerable cities and towns—creating resilient communities that can withstand this deadly drug.

Who Will Lead Walk For Lives?

Each walk is led by a family member who lost a loved one to fentanyl (usually a mother), and a team of leaders. Following the walk will be testimonials by loved ones and informative talks by experts, followed by a resource fair. Each Walk For Lives will partner with elected officials, law enforcement, hospitals and community health centers, health clinics, counseling centers, faith communities, relevant businesses, and local influencers for maximum and lasting impact. United Against Fentanyl to provide comprehensive training on organizing best practices.

What Happens After September 2025?

As the fentanyl crisis is expected to continue for years, Walk For Lives will continue in 2026 and beyond. Additionally, United Against Fentanyl will consider expanding into a federated nonprofit organization in which case WFL leaders will be invited to apply to become UAF chapter leaders. The purpose of these chapters will be to continue organizing in order to develop resilient and sustainable ecosystems across the nation that will withstand the fentanyl crisis and save lives.