



**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS  
FOUNDATION**

# The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation State of California Stewardship Plan for Covered Drugs 2022 Annual Report

Reporting Period: 01/01/22 through 12/31/2022  
Operational Dates: 11/13/22 through 12/31/22

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## I. Contact Information

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(a): Contact information pursuant to section 18973.3(a) including any changes or updates to this information.*

Officer responsible for overseeing the Stewardship Plan:

Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation  
Chris Smith, R.Ph., President  
Mailing: P.O. Box 997 Winston-Salem, NC 27102  
Physical: Takeback Solutions Foundation  
3929 West Point Blvd, Ste D, Winston-Salem NC 27103  
Phone Number: (336) 631-7602  
Email Address: [Chris.Smith@takebackfoundation.org](mailto:Chris.Smith@takebackfoundation.org)  
Website: <https://www.takebackfoundation.org/>

Officer responsible for overseeing the Program Budget:

Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation  
Lee Smith, Treasurer  
Mailing: P.O. Box 997, Winston-Salem, NC 27102  
Physical: Takeback Solutions Foundation  
3929 West Point Blvd, Ste D, Winston-Salem NC 27103  
Phone Number: (336) 770-3550  
Email Address: [Lee.Smith@takebackfoundation.org](mailto:Lee.Smith@takebackfoundation.org)  
Website: <https://www.takebackfoundation.org/>

Primary contacts for the Foundation have not changed in the Reporting Period.

## II. Executive Summary

*PRC Section 42033.2(a): On or before March 31, 2022, and each year thereafter, a program operator shall prepare and submit to the department both of the following:*

*(1) A written report describing the stewardship program activities during the previous reporting period of one year.*

*14 CCR Section 18973.4: On or before March 31, 2022, and each year thereafter, a program operator shall prepare and submit an annual report to the department.*

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(b): Executive Summary. A concise summary of the information contained in the report that includes, but is not limited to, the highlights, outcomes and challenges, achievement of the convenience standards pursuant to subsection (1)(F) of subdivision (a) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code, education and outreach efforts, and ways in which challenges are being addressed.*

The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation (“The Foundation”) operates a Product Stewardship Plan for Covered Drugs (“Plan”) pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 212, Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 42030) to Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste (“the Public Resource Code” or “PRC”) and the California Code of Regulations Title 14 Division 7 Chapter 11, Article 4 (“the Regulation”) collectively the “Drug Take-Back Laws” for the management, collection, transportation, and disposal of Covered Drugs from Ultimate Users. The Director of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (“CalRecycle”) conditionally approved the Foundation’s Plan on February 16, 2022. The Foundation submitted a revised Plan on May 17, 2022 and October 15, 2022. CalRecycle fully approved the Foundation’s Stewardship Plan for Covered Drugs on December 20, 2022.

This 2022 Annual Report (“Report”) for Covered Drugs summarizes the program implementation and operation activities between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 (“Reporting Period”). The Foundation’s Plan was in the implementation stages for the first 270 days after approval and the Plan became fully operational on November 13, 2023. All capitalized terms not defined in this Report are the same as those used in the Foundation’s approved Plan dated October 15, 2022.

### **Reporting Period Summary of Operations**

Pursuant to PRC Section 42032(g) and 14 CCR Section 18973.1(m) of the Regulation, the Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation’s Plan was fully implemented by November 13, 2022, 270 days after approval. The Foundation’s primary focus during the Reporting Period was to be fully operational by the required deadline, to educate potential Authorized Collectors on the necessity of their participation in the program, as well as expanding the geographic spread of Collection Receptacles.

The Foundation conducted significant outreach via mail, email and telephone communications notifying potential Authorized Collectors of their obligation to make a reasonable effort to participate in the program pursuant to PRC Section 42032.2(b)(2). This outreach included informing potential Authorized Collectors, including Retail Pharmacies and Pharmacy chains, of

the ability to replace self-funded Collection Receptacles with Producer-funded Collection Receptacles and providing educational materials on program requirements. The Foundation utilized the California Board of Pharmacy resources to identify other potential Authorized Collection Sites across the state. Over the span of the Reporting Period, the Foundation mailed approximately 17,000 letters to potential Authorized Collectors across the state of California to provide information on Program enrollment, collection information, as well as other pertinent information related to the Plan. The Foundation continued outreach to Retail Pharmacies and Pharmacy Chains throughout the Reporting Period by way of telephone calls and virtual and in-person meetings, which are further described throughout the Report and attachments.

During the Reporting Period, the Foundation secured 409 Authorized Collection Sites and 606 Mail-Back Distribution Sites. The 409 Authorized Collection Sites collected a total of 1,554 Liners, which equated to 50,808.31 pounds of unwanted Covered Drugs. During the Reporting Period, there were 1,713 Mailers returned, for a total of 806.99 pounds of unwanted Covered Drugs. Total weight collected in the Reporting Period was 51,615.3 pounds of unwanted Covered Drugs from all forms of collection.

The primary challenge that The Foundation experienced was the lack of ability to place Collection Receptacles. Some of the reasons reported to The Foundation that resulted in a lack of ability to place Collection Receptacles were safety and diversion, space constraints, internal take-back programs, lack of interest or response, improper licensing, no public access, fear or preference against interactions with the California Board of Pharmacy, and pharmacist responsibility. Additionally, The Foundation is contractually prohibited from approaching several chains for expansion at a site-by-site level. This results in a much smaller opportunity for The Foundation due to the monopolization of the three largest retail chains. In order to combat some of these challenges, The Foundation is attempting to supplement Collection Receptacles with Mail-Back Distribution Sites to ease fears of safety and diversion, space constraints, improper licensing, and pharmacist responsibility. The Foundation is continually seeking out potential Authorized Collection Sites to increase the number of Collection Receptacles.

During the Reporting Period, The Foundation provided educational materials to all participating Authorized Collection Sites and Mail-Back Distribution Sites. Additionally, The Foundation initiated social media posts (six total posts) after the operational deadline of November 11, 2022. Due to the short timeframe available in the Reporting Period for outreach, the Foundation is unable to make determinations on the metrics of social media engagement and what they reveal about overall public awareness during the Reporting Period. The Foundation has been implementing traditional media tactics in 2023 and will be implementing an annual survey beginning in 2023 to better ascertain the results of outreach efforts.

The following information within the Report addresses the reporting requirements outlined in PRC Section 42033.2 and 14 CCR Section 18973.4 of the Regulation.

### III. Collection System

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(1) Describe How ultimate users had an opportunity to dispose of their covered drugs as described in the approved stewardship plan.*

During the Reporting Period, Ultimate Users were able to dispose of Covered Drugs at 409 Authorized Collection Sites in the State. Ultimate Users also had the opportunity to receive Mailers from 606 Mail-Back Distribution Points throughout the State by which they could return their unwanted Covered Drugs from home via USPS at no cost to the Ultimate User.

#### A. Establishing Authorized Collection Sites

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(2) Efforts between the program operator and potential authorized collectors to establish authorized collection sites, including, but not limited to:*

*(A) Pursuant to section 18973.2(d)(2), efforts to notify potential authorized collectors of the opportunity to serve as an authorized collector for the stewardship program in the counties in which the program operated, and the list of potential authorized collectors that were notified.*

*(B) Pursuant to section 18973.2(d)(3), the process by which good faith negotiations with potential authorized collectors were conducted.*

*(C) Pursuant to section 18973.2(d)(4), efforts to work with retail pharmacies and retail pharmacy chains to fulfill the requirement in section 42032.2(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code, if applicable.*

*(D) Pursuant to section 18973.2(d)(5), efforts to incorporate potential authorized collectors that submitted a written offer to join the stewardship program, and the list of potential authorized collectors that submitted written offers.*

*(E) Pursuant to section 18973.2(d)(6), a list of potential authorized collectors that submitted a written offer to join the stewardship program and were rejected, and the reason(s) for each rejection.*

*(F) Description of how the program operator complied with the requirement in section 18973.2(d)(7).*

During the entirety of the Reporting Period, the Foundation undertook efforts to engage with potential Authorized Collectors with the intent of establishing Authorized Collection Sites in the State. Outreach was performed via letter to approximately 17,000 Potential Authorized Collectors and via telephone to over 1,000 potential Authorized Collectors notifying them of the opportunity to serve as an Authorized Collector under the Plan and their obligation to make a reasonable effort to participate in the program pursuant to PRC Section 42032.2(b)(2). The list of potential Authorized Collectors who were notified is provided as an accessible Excel spreadsheet titled *Attachment A: Potential Authorized Collectors Notified*.

Good faith negotiations with potential Authorized Collectors were conducted via phone according to the process described in the Foundations approved Plan, Section VI(c)(1). These conversations involve details including, but not limited to, the DEA requirements for proper placement, installation, and operation of the Collection Receptacle. Once a clear understanding of all needs for the proper operation is reached, the Foundation confirms continued interest and proceeds with an agreement to establish the potential Authorized

Collector as an Authorized Collector. The Foundation begins working with the Authorized Collector towards modifying their DEA registration, where necessary, as well as provides materials for the training of their staff.

The Foundation did not receive any written offers from potential Authorized Collectors to participate in the Stewardship Program during the Reporting Period. Therefore, pursuant to 14 CCR Section 18973.2(d)(6), the Foundation did not reject any offers of participation.

All potential Authorized Collectors who expressed interest in participating as a result of the Foundation's outreach were provided with good faith negotiations initiating within 30 days as required by 14 CCR Section 18973.2(d)(3).

## B. Progress Toward Convenience Standard

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(3) How the convenience standards pursuant to subsection (1)(F) of subdivision (a) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code were met. Include necessary changes to calculations that account for changes in the number of authorized collection sites and most recent publicly available population calculations from the State of California Department of Finance. If the convenience standards were not met, describe efforts made to achieve compliance.*

The Foundation has made progress toward the convenience standard by establishing 409 Authorized Collection Sites. Analysis has been conducted to determine counties where full convenience may not be possible for both approved Program Operators based on the number of DEA approved potential Authorized Collection Sites available in some counties. The resulting number is a significant barrier to meeting convenience state-wide for reasons explained below. Therefore, Mail-Back Service was used to supplement Collection Receptacles and make access to Covered Drug disposal more accessible for Ultimate Users. During the Reporting Period, the Collection System was supplemented with 606 Mail-Back Distribution Sites in 38 counties in the State.

Efforts are also being made to expand outreach to Long-term Care Facilities as potential Authorized Collectors, and additional research is being done to gain insight into opportunities for engaging with new types of potential Authorized Collectors and alternative collection methods.

The Foundation met with members of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) to discuss their needs, the possibilities for establishing Authorized Collection Sites and the possibility of supplementing services with Mail-Back Distribution Sites. Additionally, the Foundation met with an organization that represents Public Safety Agencies, including the State Sheriffs Association, to inform members of the program and the opportunity to become an Authorized Collector under the Foundation's Plan. The outreach was provided in such a way that members could share it with the various organizations they represent in an effort to reach statewide potential Authorized Collectors in law enforcement.



Current efforts also include on-site meetings in California with potential Authorized Collectors, including Retail Pharmacy Chains, to work on incorporating them into the program as Authorized Collectors.

The Foundation utilized the Department of Finance's most recent publicly available population data to calculate convenience per county and to determine if any changes to Authorized Collection Sites were necessary. Based on the most recent population data, the Foundation calculated convenience correctly in the following Counties:

- Alpine
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- Colusa
- Del Norte
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Glenn
- Humboldt
- Imperial
- Inyo
- Kern
- Kings
- Lake
- Lassen
- Madera
- Mariposa
- Mendocino
- Merced
- Modoc
- Mono
- Monterey
- Napa
- Nevada
- Placer
- Plumas
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Benito
- San Bernardino
- San Joaquin
- Shasta, Sierra
- Siskiyou
- Sonoma
- Stanislaus
- Sutter
- Tehama
- Trinity
- Tulare
- Tuolumne
- Ventura
- Yolo
- Yuba

The population in the following Counties have decreased, therefore reducing the number of Authorized Collection Sites required to meet convenience:

- Los Angeles
- Orange
- San Diego

The Foundation used the population 10,269,935 to calculate convenience for Los Angeles County, but the most recent population data reports that the population has decreased to 9,761,210. Based on the convenience standard of one Authorized

Collection Site per 50,000 people, the Foundation was attempting to secure an additional eleven Authorized Collection Sites more than what is required to meet convenience in Los Angeles County. Applying the same principle, the Foundation was attempting to secure 3 additional Authorized Collection Sites more than what is required to meet convenience in Orange County and 2 additional Authorized Collection Sites more than what is required to meet convenience in San Diego County.

The Foundation's efforts to achieve compliance with the convenience standard consisted of prioritizing counties that were not meeting the convenience standard by conducting research through internet searches and utilizing available sales tools to identify potential Pharmacies and law enforcement agencies. The goal was to meet the criteria of geographic spread which is at least 90% of Ultimate Users living within a 15 mile-drive of an Authorized Collection Site or a Mail-Back Distribution Site. Once potential Pharmacies and law enforcement agencies were exhausted, the search then expanded to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). Each SNF was required to be examined individually to determine eligibility for being considered as an Authorized Collector. Upon completion of contacting SNFs as a Potential Authorized Collectors, the search was then expanded to other health-related establishments, such as doctor's offices, health clinics, hospitals, home health agencies, hospice facilities, continuum of care facilities, long term care facilities, surgery centers, outpatient facilities, behavioral health facilities, addiction rehabilitation facilities, dental and other specialty health offices to be established as a Mail-Back Distribution Site if the site did not have the proper licensing. This approach was repeated for each county that did not have the minimum number of Authorized Collection Sites. The Foundation's research has identified approximately 5,000 potential authorized collectors across California. The research and outreach are still ongoing.

#### Supplementing With Mail-Back Distribution Sites

Listed below is an overview of the circumstances beyond the Foundation's control that necessitated the use of supplemental Mail-Back Distribution Sites in Counties that did not have the minimum number of Authorized Collection Sites pursuant to PRC section 42032.2(c).

Based on the RFA that the other Program Operator received, it appears that according to CalRecycle, not a single Program Operator in California met the convenience standard in 2022. Additionally, due to the other operator's contractual relationships with three of the five largest Retail Pharmacy chains, the Foundation is contractually prohibited from approaching these chains for expansion at a site-by-site level. This results in a much smaller opportunity for the Foundation due to the monopolization of the three largest retail chains. While soliciting potential Authorized Collection Sites, thousands of Sites declined to place Collection Receptacles due to reasons of safety

and diversion, space constraints, internal take-back programs, lack of interest or response, improper licensing, no public access, fear or preference against interactions with the California Board of Pharmacy, and pharmacist responsibilities. Additionally, many potential Mail-Back Distribution sites declined to participate due to space constraints, lack of interest, pharmacist responsibilities, and patient data obligations.

The Foundation is committed to continually working towards meeting the convenience standard. Since submitting the Annual Report, the Foundation has secured an additional 23 Authorized Collection Sites and 21 Mail-Back Distribution Sites to supplement the Counties that do not have the minimum number of Authorized Collection Sites. When factoring in Mail-Back Distribution sites at a ratio of one Mail-Back Distribution site to one Collection Receptacle, the number of Counties not meeting the minimum number of Authorized Collection Sites drops to 22, with only five of those Counties having no disposal options (Glenn, Lassen, Mariposa, Sierra and Trinity).

A list of potential Authorized Collection Sites can be found in the accessible Excel spreadsheet title *Attachment A: Potential Authorized Collectors Notified*, as well as the corresponding method of outreach. This list encompasses both potential Authorized Collectors and Mail-Back Distribution Sites.

## C. Authorized Collection Sites

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(4) For each participating authorized collection site, include the following:*

*(A) Name and physical address*

*(B) Amount of covered drugs collected, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.2(g)(4)*

*(C) Number of instances that collected covered drugs were picked up for disposal*

*(D) Number of receptacle liners picked up for disposal*

*(E) Number of instances and corresponding amount of time the secure collection receptacle was not available to the public during business hours. For each instance, provide a description of why the secure collection receptacle was not available.*

The name and physical address of each participating Authorized Collection Site is provided as an accessible Excel spreadsheet titled *Attachment B: 2022 Collection Information* and provides the collection data for each participating Authorized Collection Site including the number of liners picked up and corresponding weight. The number of liners is indicative of the number of times unwanted Covered Drugs were picked up from each Site. *Note: Attachment B: 2022 Collection Information includes all active sites and sites that were closed within the reporting period. Since the submission of the first Annual Report on 3/31/2023 two sites have closed as identified on lines 410 and 411.*

The Foundation was not notified of any instances of closed Collection Receptacles during the Reporting Period; therefore, the Foundation was not aware of any instances of

Collection Receptacles being unavailable to the public. Per Section XI(A)(1)(a) of the approved Plan, The Foundation requires that all Collection Receptacles be unlocked and accessible to the public during all operating hours.

The table below outlines the total amount of weight collected by Mailers and Collection Receptacles.

<b>Returned weight</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Total Weight (pounds)</b>
Drop-off Site Liners	1,554	50,808.31
Standard Envelope	1,713	806.99
Inhaler Envelope		0
Auto-injector Packages		0
<b>Total Weight Collected</b>	-	51,615.30

## D. Mail-Back Distribution Sites

14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(5) For each type of mail-back service utilized, include the following, as applicable:

(A) List of distribution locations

(B) Mechanism(s) of distribution

(C) Amount of mail-back materials distributed, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.2(g)(6)(E)

(D) Amount of mail-back material returned, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.2(g)(6)(E)

The Foundation began the Reporting Period with 454 Mail-Back Distribution Sites, added 152 Mail-Back Distribution Sites during the Reporting Period for a total of 606 established Mail-Back Distribution Sites operational during the Reporting Period. The location of each Mail-Back Distribution Site is provided in an accessible Excel spreadsheet titled *Attachment B: 2022 Collection Information*. Mail-Back Distribution Sites were primarily utilized to expand equitable access to Covered Drug disposal in rural or Historically Underserved Communities, particularly those with limited options to place a Collection Receptacle. There were 3,040 Mailers distributed to Mail-Back Distribution Sites during the Reporting Period.

Additionally, The Foundation incorporated ordering mechanisms for Mail-Back Service on the website ([www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com)) and toll-free phone number (1-888-371-0717). These services were made available to Ultimate Users during the Reporting Period. During the Reporting Period, there were three website orders (one medication, one inhaler, one auto-injector).

### All Mailers

Mailer Type	Total # Distributed	Total # Returned	Total Weight (pounds)
Standard Envelope	3,041	1,713	806.99
Inhaler Envelope	1	-	-
Auto-injector Packages	1	-	-
Total	3,043	1,713	806.99

### Mailers by Type of Request

Mailer Type	Total # Distributed	Total # Returned	Total Weight (pounds)
Mail-Back Distribution Sites	3,040	1,713	806.99
Website Requests	3	0	0
Toll-Free Phone Number	0	0	0
Total	3,043	1,713	806.99

The number of Mailers distributed to Ultimate Users by Mail-Back Distribution Sites is unknown. It is true that the Foundation measures the quantity of Mailers by Mail-Back Distribution Site against the quantity of Mailers returned via the Mailers unique serial number and distribution location identifier. However, the Foundation does not receive this data until Mailers are received at destruction. Therefore, the Foundation does not have visibility into how many Mailers are distributed to Ultimate Users at the Mail-Back Distribution Sites.

Mailers being provided via any distribution method does not guarantee or ensure that Ultimate Users will return the Mailers for destruction.

## E. Alternative Forms of Collection and Disposal

14 CCR Section 18973.4(c)(6) For each alternative form of collection and disposal, include the following, as applicable:

(A) Method(s) of collection

(B) Name and address of location(s)

(C) Number of collections

(D) Amount of materials distributed, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.2(g)(6)(E)

(E) Amount of material collected, as required in the stewardship plan pursuant to section 18973.2(g)(6)(E)

The Foundation did not have any alternative forms of collection or disposal during the Reporting Period.

## IV. Transporters and Disposal Facilities

*14 CCR Section 18973.4 (d) Transportation and Disposal System. Description of the methods used for transportation and disposal of covered drugs, including the following:*

- (1) Mechanism(s) for tracking the collection, transportation, and disposal of covered drugs*
- (2) Name and mailing address of each service provider used to transport or process covered drugs*
- (3) For each disposal facility, include the following:*
  - (A) Name of disposal facility*
  - (B) Mailing and physical address*
  - (C) Weight of covered drugs disposed*

The Foundation has a serialization system in place that allows for the tracking of Containers and Inner Liners, as well as Mailers from initial shipment through destruction.

Tracking of Covered Drugs from Collection Receptacles begins with the shipment of the CRSB to the Authorized Collector and concludes with the destruction of the collected Covered Drugs at the destruction facility.

Authorized Collectors are required to maintain a Serialization Tracking Form for each CRCK received at their Authorized Collection Site. The purpose of this Form is to document the use of the serialized Container and Inner Liner throughout the collection process and to help the Authorized Collector meet the Regulation record keeping requirements.

To ensure compliance with safety policies and Plan operating procedures, the Serialization Tracking Form is validated with the names and signatures of a minimum of two Authorized Collection Site employees and reviewed by the Program Operator and the Authorized Collector.

Authorized Collectors retain a copy of the Serialization Tracking Form, a copy of the FedEx tracking information, and any other records as applicable on file at the Authorized Collection Site for a minimum of three (3) years.

Serialization Tracking Form data elements tracked include but are not limited to the following:

- Name and address of the Authorized Collector
- Size of Inner Liner
- Pharmacy DEA # (if applicable)
- Name and address of Reverse Distributor/Disposal Site
- Reverse Distributor/Disposal Site DEA#
- Serial Number of CRCK
- Date CRCK received (i.e., date Inner Liner acquired)
- Date Container installed in Collection Receptacle
- Date Container removed from Collection Receptacle
- Date Container transferred to storage
- FedEx tracking number
- Date Container shipped to the licensed DEA Reverse Distributor-Collector Service

Provider.

Upon receipt of CRCK(s) shipped from an Authorized Collector, the licensed DEA Reverse Distributor-Collector Service Provider will record and track the following data elements for each CRCK:

- Date received
- Number and size of Containers received and destroyed
- Serialized barcode label information
- Serialization Container tracking number
- Method of delivery, signature of individuals delivering Containers and employees who received the Container
- Weight
- Date transported to destruction facility
- Place and method of destruction
- Destruction date
- Manifest number (if applicable)
- Name and signature of the two employees of the DEA registrant that witnessed the destruction

All information recorded will be transferred to the Program Operator daily. Any discrepancies observed by the licensed DEA Reverse Distributor-Collector Service Provider will be recorded on discrepancy reports and corrective action will be taken according to Program procedures.

Tracking of Mailers containing Covered Drugs begins with the distribution of MBSKs to the Mail-Back Distribution Sites and concludes with the destruction of the collected Covered Drugs at the destruction facility. Upon receipt of a Mailer shipped from an Ultimate User, the licensed DEA Reverse Distributor-Collector Service Provider will record and track the following data elements for each Mailer:

- Date received
- Number and type of Mailer received and destroyed
- Serialized barcode label information
- Serialization Mailer tracking number
- Method of delivery, signature of individuals delivering
- Mailers and employees who received the sealed Mailers
- Weight
- Date transported to destruction facility
- Place and method of destruction
- Destruction date
- Manifest number (if applicable)
- Name and signature of the two employees of the DEA registrant that witnessed the destruction

All information recorded is transferred to the Program Operator daily for tracking of the Mailers returned using the MBSK's distribution system.

A list of Transporters and Disposal Facilities can be found in the accessible Excel Spreadsheet titled *Attachment C: Service Providers*. The weights disposed of at each of the disposal facilities is provided in an accessible Excel spreadsheet titled *Attachment D: Weights by Disposal Facility*.

## V. Policies and Procedures

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(e). Pursuant to subdivision (b)(6) of section 42033.2 of the Public Resources Code, provide the following:*

- (1) Description of whether policies and procedures for collecting, transporting, and disposing of covered drugs, as established in the stewardship plan, were followed during the reporting period*
- (2) Description of each instance of noncompliance from stewardship plan policies and procedures, if any occurred*
- (3) Corrective actions taken, or that will be taken, if the program operator discovered critical instances of noncompliance with stewardship plan policies and procedures*

Policies and procedures for collecting, transporting, and disposing of covered drugs as established in the Stewardship Plan were followed including:

- Formalized reviews/audits of required tracking/reporting documentation
- Random/unscheduled on-site visits
- Scheduled on-site audits of Authorized Collection Sites for compliance with the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC Sections 801-971 and 21 CFR Section 1317; United States Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Sections 100-185; and State Board of Pharmacy and all other applicable state of California statutes and regulations

There were no instances of noncompliance; therefore, no corrective actions were taken.

## VI. Description of Updates

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(f) Description of updates, that have been made or will be made, to the processes and policies followed to safely and securely collect, track, and properly manage covered drugs from collection through final disposal*

During the reporting period, all processes and policies were followed to safely and securely collect, track and properly manage covered drugs from collection through final disposal. Due to the Foundation's audit processes as described in the approved Plan Section XV, review of collection and disposal data from the Reporting Period is subject to audit and validation. The Foundation anticipates adding additional disposal facilities for the destruction of Covered Drugs from all collection methods as a result of incinerator backlogs. The Foundation will notify CalRecycle of any updates to processes or policies made as a result of this review.



## VII. Ordinance Repeal

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(g): Pursuant to subdivision (e) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code, description of processes, logistics, and timing of implementation that will be necessary for the stewardship program to expand into jurisdictions not previously included in the stewardship plan, in the event of the repeal of a local stewardship program ordinance. The description shall include an explanation of how the stewardship program will meet the convenience standards, pursuant to subsection (1)(F) of subdivision (a) of section 42032.2 of the Public Resources Code.*

There were no ordinances repealed in the state of California during the reporting period; therefore, it was not necessary for the Foundation to expand into jurisdictions not previously included in the Stewardship Plan.

## VIII. Safety or Security Concerns

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(h) Safety and Security. Describe the general nature of any incidents with safety or security related to collection, transportation, or disposal of collected covered drugs. Explain what corrective actions were taken or will be taken to address the issue and improve safety and security. In addition, the following specific information about any incident(s) shall be made available to the department upon request, and shall include, but not be limited to:*

- (1) Location and date*
- (2) Description of specific incident*
- (3) Cause(s) of specific incident*
- (4) Parties involved*
- (5) Regulatory or law enforcement agencies involved and any litigation, arbitration, or other legal proceedings that result from each incident*

There were no Safety or Security Concerns for the Reporting Period.

## IX. Educational Efforts and Public Outreach

*14 CCR Section 18973.4(i) Education and Outreach. Description and evaluation of the comprehensive education and outreach activities pursuant to section 18973.2(j), including, but not limited to, the following:*

- (1) Electronic examples of promotional marketing materials*
- (2) Numerical results of the education and outreach metrics outlined in the stewardship plan, pursuant to section 18973.2(j)(5)*
- (3) A discussion of what the metrics, described above in section 18973.4(i)(2), reveal about the performance of the comprehensive education and outreach program, including, but not limited to, ultimate user awareness, program usage, and accessibility*
- (4) Description of how the requirement of section 42031.6(b) of the Public Resources Code was met.*

During the reporting period, the Foundation provided educational materials to Authorized Collection Sites and Mail-Back Distribution Sites that participated in the Program. These educational materials were intended to both educate the Authorized Collectors and Ultimate Users on how to find and order Mailers, as well as provide information on the program, drug abuse statistics, and the dangers of placing unwanted medications in the incorrect waste stream. During the month of December, the Foundation posted twice per social media platform (six total posts) promoting safe drug disposal in California. The table listed below outlines the

dates, number of posts per platform, and corresponding impressions. Impressions represent the number of unique interactions with the post.

The Foundation plans to initiate twice monthly social media posts on three different platforms: 1) quarterly influencer posts 2) bi-annual Programmatic Advertisements 3) bi-annual direct mail campaigns.

Educational and promotional documents can be found in Appendix A.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Post Location</b>	<b>Impressions</b>
12/16/22	Twitter	62
12/28/22	Twitter	18
12/16/22	Instagram	7
12/28/22	Instagram	4
12/16/22	Facebook	3
12/28/22	Facebook	4

Due to the short timeframe available in the Reporting Period for outreach, the Foundation is unable to make determinations on the metrics of social media engagement and what they reveal about overall public awareness. The Foundation will be implementing an annual survey beginning in 2023 to better ascertain the results of outreach efforts.

In accordance with PRC Section 42031.6(b), the Foundation ensured that all education and outreach material was consistent with services offered to Ultimate Users during the Reporting Period.

## X. Participating Covered Entities

14 CCR Section 18973.4(j) Covered Entities, Covered Products, and Authorized Collectors. List of the following:

(1) Participating covered entities covered by the stewardship plan and their contact information including, but not limited to, the following:

- (A) Name of covered entity
- (B) Mailing and physical address
- (C) Contact name and title
- (D) Email address

(2) A copy of the list of covered products submitted to the Board of Pharmacy pursuant to subsection (2) of subdivision (a) of section 42031 of the Public Resources Code.

(3) Authorized collectors and their contact information including, but not limited to:

- (A) Name of authorized collector
- (B) Mailing and physical address
- (C) Contact name and title
- (D) Email address

A list of participating Covered Entities and corresponding product list can be found as an accessible Excel spreadsheet titled *Attachment E: Covered Entities and Product List*. Unless otherwise indicated on the Excel spreadsheet, mailing and physical addresses are the same.

## XI. Service Provider Selection Process

*14 CCR Section 18973.4 (k) Description and evaluation of the process for selecting service providers, if applicable.*

The affairs and operations of the Foundation are managed by, or under the control of the Governing Board on behalf of the Covered Entities. The Governing Board has elected three officers to manage day-to-day matters of The Foundation: Chris Smith, R.Ph, President; Lee Smith, Treasurer; and Jon Pierce, Secretary. The Foundation and the Covered Entities recognize they are ultimately responsible for the performance and execution of the services described in the Plan in accordance with the Drug Take-Back Laws.

To meet certain of those obligations, the Foundation has entered into a service agreement with Inmar Rx Solutions (“Inmar”), which provides services that contribute to satisfying certain Program requirements. The Foundation has made a determination, based on good business judgment, that Inmar was a commercially reasonable choice for providing the needed services. These services include:

- Identifying and soliciting Authorized Collectors and managing Authorized Collector agreements
- Handling and disposal of Covered Drugs including transportation and destruction.
- Oversight of alternative forms of collection:
  - Obtaining Mail-Back Distribution Sites
  - Sourcing and providing Mailers
  - Managing collection events
- Education and outreach, including Program website and toll-free number

Selection of service providers must be brought before The Foundation's Governing Board and passed by unanimous vote.

The Foundation contracts with Inmar to conduct a formalized Service Provider selection process. This process typically consists of a request for proposal for a specific service to known service providers. Interested parties are given the opportunity to indicate their interest and prepare a presentation, as well as answer questions developed by the Foundation to better understand the service provider's capabilities. The Foundation then selects a Service Provider based on a competitive pricing analysis, regulatory compliance, security, safety and services standards.

## XII. Incentives

14 CCR Section 18973.4(l) Description of any grants, loans, sponsorships, reimbursements, or other incentives provided, as applicable.

There were no grants, loans, sponsorships, reimbursements, or other incentives provided during the Reporting Period.

## XIII. Staffing Changes

14 CCR Section 18973.4 (m) Description of changes in staffing of the stewardship program.

There were no staffing changes in the Stewardship Program during the Reporting Period.

## XIV. Expenses

14 CCR Section 18973.4 (n) A list of all actual expenses incurred during the previous reporting period. Expenses shall be summarized in accordance with the budget categories specified in section 18973.6(b).

The table below represents actual expenses during the Reporting Period.

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>
Capital Expenses	\$ 340,761.38
Operational Costs	\$ 391,002.42
Education and Outreach	\$ 51,244.40
Administrative Costs	\$ 444,453.75
Grants, Loans, Sponsorships and Other Incentives	\$ 0
Departmental Administrative Fees	\$ 0
<b>Total Expenses for Reporting Period</b>	<b>\$ 1,227,461.95</b>

## XV. Coordination Efforts

14 CCR Section 18973.4 (o) Description of how the program operator coordinated with other program operators to avoid confusion to the public and all program participants in the event that multiple stewardship programs for covered drugs are in operation concurrently or new stewardship programs begin operating.

The Foundation began conversations with the other approved Program Operator on coordination efforts during the Reporting Period. An agreement was signed between Program Operators on March 3, 2023, and work will begin April 12, 2023. In order for all Program Operators to coordinate, there will be a third-party vendor for the toll-free phone number and neutrally branded website contracted individually by all Program Operators. Once the contracting process with the third-party is complete, the development work will begin.

The toll-free phone number will be created in order for Ultimate Users to call and inquire about locations to dispose of Covered Drugs, request Mailers be mailed directly to the Ultimate User, and obtain other Program information.

The mutually branded website will serve as a single source of information for Ultimate Users to avoid any confusion regarding multiple program operators. The website will be mutually branded by utilizing an agreed upon logo created for the joint website. The website will allow Ultimate Users to order Mailers and view program information, educational information, and other program advocacy. The Foundation will be distributing Mailers equally with the other Program Operator.

## XVI. State Agency Determinations

*14 CCR Section 18973.4 (p) State Agency Determinations pursuant to section 42032.2(a)(1)(C) of the Public Resources Code. Submit all agency determination(s) of compliance, noncompliance, and superseding determinations of compliance, if any, for the reporting period.*

There were no state agency determinations of compliance, noncompliance, and superseding determinations of compliance for the reporting period.

## XVII. Certification Statement

As required by 14 CCR Section 18973(e), I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided in this document is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.



Chris Smith, R.Ph.  
Foundation President  
P.O. Box 997  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102  
Phone Number: (336) 631-7602  
Email Address: Chris.Smith@takebackfoundation.org

## Appendix A – Educational Materials and Outreach



*Sample Kiosk with Signage*

## CONSUMER DRUG TAKE-BACK (PROGRAMA DE ELIMINACIÓN DE MEDICAMENTOS)



For more information,  
scan this QR code to visit  
[safemedicinedrop.com](https://safemedicinedrop.com)



### ✓ ACCEPTED (ACEPTADOS)

Unused or expired prescription medication  
(Including Schedule II-V controlled substances)  
*Medicamentos con receta no consumidos o vencidos (incluidas las sustancias controladas de clasificación II a V)*

Unused or expired over-the-counter medication  
*Medicamentos de venta libre, no consumidos o vencidos*

### ✗ NOT ACCEPTED (NO ACEPTADOS)



Thermometers  
*Termómetros*



Needles  
*Agujas*



Aerosol Cans  
*Latas de aerosoles*

Illegal drugs  
*Drogas ilegales*

Sharps  
*Los Objetos Punzocortantes*

#### Kiosk Top Sticker



### ACCEPTED

MEDICATIONS IN ANY DOSAGE FORM, EXCEPT FOR THOSE LISTED BELOW,  
IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONTAINER OR SEALED BAG.



### NOT ACCEPTED

HERBAL REMEDIES, VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS, COSMETICS, OTHER  
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS, EMPTY MEDICAL DEVICES, BATTERIES,  
SHARPS, MERCURY-CONTAINING THERMOMETERS, AND ILLICIT-DRUGS.

#### Kiosk Drop Door Sticker



# SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL

*ELIMINACIÓN SEGURA  
DE MEDICAMENTOS*

**RETURN YOUR UNUSED  
PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS HERE**

*DEPOSITE AQUÍ SUS MEDICAMENTOS  
RECETADOS NO UTILIZADOS*

**HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, YOUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WATER SUPPLY**

*AYUDE A PROTEGER A SU FAMILIA, A SU COMUNIDAD Y A NUESTRO SUMINISTRO DE AGUA*



*Kiosk Front Door Sticker*





**PROTECT YOUR FAMILIES,  
COMMUNITIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

# **SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICINES**

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR EXPIRED OR UNWANTED MEDICINES**

There are a number of ways to dispose of expired or unwanted medications.

Go to [www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com) to learn more.



**CONVENIENT KIOSK  
LOCATIONS**



**MAIL-BACK**

For more information about the program,  
go to [www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com)  
or call 1-888-371-0717



## **WHY IS SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL IMPORTANT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH?**

**Proper disposal of unused  
drugs saves lives and  
protects the environment.**

- Unused or expired prescription medications can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.
- Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold.
- Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply.



PROTECT YOUR FAMILIES,  
COMMUNITIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
**SAFELY DISPOSE  
OF UNUSED MEDICINES**

**BEFORE DISPOSAL CHECK THE PACKAGE**

If there are specific instructions for disposal on the label, package or package insert, please follow those instructions.

**DISPOSAL OPTIONS**



**CONVENIENT KIOSK DROP OFF LOCATIONS**

To find drug disposal kiosk drop-off sites in your area, visit [www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com).



**MAIL-BACK ENVELOPES**

Mail-Back Services for Unwanted Medicines. Visit the Mail-Back section of [www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com) to order a Mail-Back Package.

For more information about the program, go to [www.safemedicinedrop.com](http://www.safemedicinedrop.com) or call 1-888-371-0717



**WHAT CAN YOU  
DISPOSE OF IN A  
KIOSK OR MAILBACK  
ENVELOPE?**



**ACCEPTED:**

Medications in any dosage form, except for those listed below, in their original container or sealed.\*

\*If transferring medications to a sealed bag, please be sure to recycle all remaining packaging



**NOT ACCEPTED:**

Herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, medical devices, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, sharps, and illicit drugs.



**MAIL-BACK PACKAGE IS FOR**

**UNWANTED  
OR EXPIRED  
MEDICATIONS**



**ACCEPTED**

Medications in any dosage form, except those listed below, in their original container or sealed bag.\*

\*If transferring medications to a sealed bag, please be sure to recycle any remaining packaging.

**NOT ACCEPTED**

Herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, inhalers, medical devices, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, sharps, pet medication, and illicit drugs.

To protect your privacy, consumers are reminded to remove all personally identifiable information on prescription labels or materials before using any of the disposal options listed above.



**MAIL-BACK PACKAGE IS FOR**

**INHALERS**



**ACCEPTED**

Inhalers

**NOT ACCEPTED**

Unwanted medicines that are not inhalers, herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, medical devices, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, sharps, and illicit drugs.

Note: Only place undamaged inhalers in their original containers in the Inhaler Mail-Back Package. Inhaler Mail-Back Packages can only be used for inhalers and cannot accept other types of items.

To protect your privacy, consumers are reminded to remove all personally identifiable information on prescription labels or materials before using any of the disposal options listed above.



*Mail-Back Insert for Medication*



*Mail-Back Insert for Inhalers*



**MAIL-BACK PACKAGE IS FOR  
PRE-LOADED PRODUCTS  
CONTAINING A SHARP  
AND AUTO-INJECTORS**



**ACCEPTED**

Pre-loaded products containing a sharp and auto-injectors.

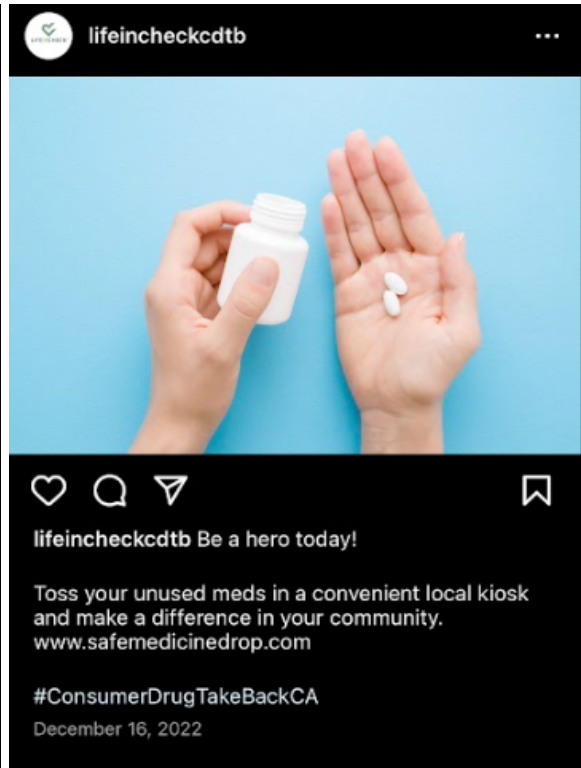
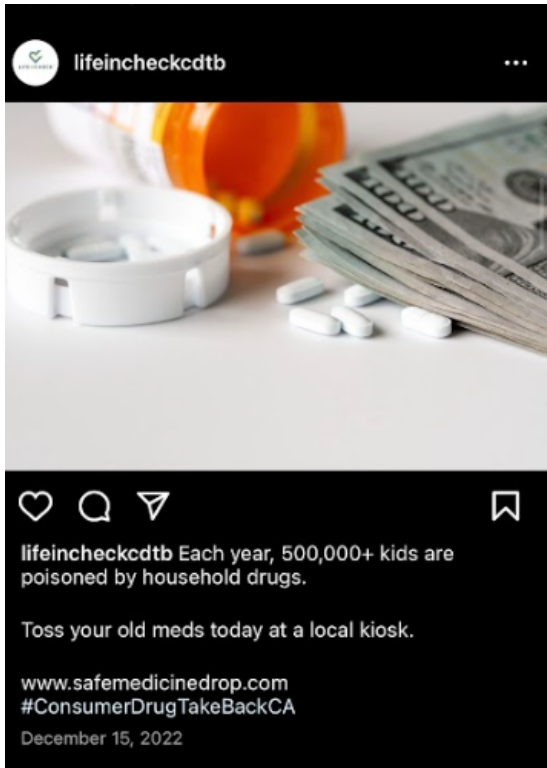
**NOT ACCEPTED**

Unwanted medicines that are not pre-loaded products containing a sharp or auto-injectors, inhalers, herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, medical devices, batteries, mercury-containing thermometers, sharps, and illicit drugs.

**Note:** Injector Mail-Back Packages can only be used for pre-filled injector products and cannot accept other types of items.



*Mail-Back Inserts for Auto-Injectors*



*Actual Social Media Posts - Instagram. These images were shared on the same dates on Twitter and Facebook as well.*