

## Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge

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Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



Daliah Heller works in public policy and practice at the intersection of public health and criminal justice, with a particular focus on drugs and drug use. Over the past two decades, she has served in leadership positions in the government and non-profit sectors in New York City. As Assistant Commissioner at the New York City Health Department, she established the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care, and Treatment. Her accomplishments in this role included the development of robust public health research and analytics on problem drug use and alcohol policy, initiatives scaling up substance use services in healthcare and social service settings, and the

creation of a city-wide naloxone program to prevent overdose death. Previously, as a non-profit Executive Director, she grew a nationally-recognized, Bronx-based harm reduction organization, designing, implementing, and showcasing innovative models of healthcare, housing, and social solidarity for homeless and formerly incarcerated people involved with drug use. She holds a PhD in Social Welfare from CUNY Graduate Center, a MPH in Population and Family Health from Columbia University, and a BA in Political Science and Philosophy from McGill University. She is Director of the newly-established Substance Use Initiative at Vital Strategies, a global health NGO, an Adjunct Professor at CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, an Investigator with the CUNY Institute for Implementation Science and Population Health, and Principal at dhphp, LLC.