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Press Release



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Contact:

Communications Office
(603)271-2121

New Hampshire Awarded Federal Substance Misuse Grants to Expand Medication-Assisted Treatment, Enhance Surveillance of Overdose Data

CONCORD – In order to support the State of New Hampshire's comprehensive strategy to combat the heroin and opioid crisis and help save lives, Governor Maggie Hassan and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers announced today that New Hampshire will be awarded federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand access to medication-assisted treatment and to enhance the State's collection and use of drug overdose data.

Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New Hampshire will receive an estimated \$1 million for medication-assisted treatment and approximately \$250,000 for drug overdose data surveillance. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services will be notified of the exact figure for the grants when it receives an official Notice of Award from the federal government, which it has not yet received.

"In New Hampshire, we are working across party lines and with stakeholders at all levels to combat the heroin and opioid crisis and help save lives with a comprehensive strategy to support law enforcement and strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery," Governor Hassan said. "Expanding access to medication-assisted treatment and ensuring that we are getting resources to providers and communities as effectively and quickly as possible are important parts of our multi-pronged approach, and these grants will help support our efforts. I thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for awarding New Hampshire with this existing grant funding to assist in combating this horrible epidemic, and I continue to urge Congress to provide emergency federal funding in order to fully support states in our efforts. Here in New Hampshire, we have worked across party lines to provide additional resources to those battling addiction on the front lines, and it is unacceptable that Congress has not passed emergency funding to combat this epidemic."

"We thank SAMHSA for the opportunity to expand the State's prevention and treatment efforts," said DHHS Commissioner Meyers. "The Department will use the funding to significantly expand the availability of Medication Assisted Treatment in Manchester and Nashua, two of the areas hardest hit by the opioid addiction crisis, which will complement our ongoing efforts to expand access to these services throughout the State. The opioid data surveillance funding will increase the ability of the Department and the Office of the Medical Examiner to access data and act on timely information that can help prevent overdoses."

Governor Hassan and DHHS have been working to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for patients in New Hampshire, including efforts to help recruit and contract with physician practices to develop or enhance their capacity to provide medication-assisted treatment. The grant to expand medication-assisted treatment will go to Manchester Community Health Center and Harbor Homes Harborcare Health and Wellness Center to expand their provision of medication-assisted treatment services and partner with local substance use disorder and recovery support providers to provide patients access to care planning, coordination, and delivery of care.

The drug overdose data surveillance grant will support data analysts in the Division of Public Health Services and the Office of Medical Examiner to enhance the State's collection and use of drug overdose data. Per a recommendation in the Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health James Vara's recent update on the State's comprehensive response to the opiate/opioid crisis, Governor Hassan will soon issue an Executive Order establishing a committee to analyze data and trends in the epidemic to ensure that resources are being allocated as effectively as possible, which will help build on the efforts supported by this grant.

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will provide up to \$11 million to 11 states through Medication-Assisted Treatment Prescription Drug Opioid Addiction Grants and \$4.27 million in funds to 12 states through the Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality program.

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