



State of New Hampshire

Department of Safety



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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title			Date Issued
48	Grant Funding Available for NH Project FIRST			December 31, 2018
Superseded	Released By	Approved By	Source	
	N.Mercuri / P. Holigan	N. Mercuri	NH Fire & EMS Academy	

Applications are currently being accepted for NH Project FIRST (First responders Initiating Recovery, Support, and Treatment), a grant-funded program for first responder agencies interested in implementing a mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) program to combat the opioid crisis in the Granite State. NH Project FIRST is funded through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) First Responder Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) grant totaling \$3.1 million over four years. We are currently in the second year of this grant. This program is 100% federally funded.

NH Project FIRST is a voluntary program intended to reduce the stress the opioid epidemic has placed on systems and first responders. The program aims to reduce opioid overdoses and opioid overdose fatalities, increase the number of first responders licensed to carry and administer Narcan, and connect at-risk individuals to treatment services. Program objectives are to assist first responders in:

- Training at-risk individuals affected by opioid use disorder (OUD) and their support systems on CPR (non-certified), rescue breathing, and naloxone administration
- Distributing emergency opioid overdose kits which contain naloxone, gloves, pocket mask, and information on the Good Samaritan Law
- Sharing information on treatment, recovery, and social services with interested at-risk individuals & their support systems to assist them in accessing resources
- Helping at-risk individuals make connections to treatment services

This program should not interfere with emergency responses.

NH Project FIRST uses NH EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) protocol and provides funding to NH Fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies for:

- First responder training, including overtime or backfill to attend Division-sponsored training

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- First responders' time for follow-up visits and program administration
- Materials and equipment (e.g., promotional materials, CPR manikins, program administration tools)
- Organizational events to connect with local treatment and recovery agencies and other partners

Recognizing the diverse nature and capabilities of Fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies in NH, there is flexibility on how NH Project FIRST can be implemented in each community or region. The NH Project FIRST team will assist first responder agencies in developing an MIH plan, completing state grant applications, and making connections to treatment and other service agencies.

Please note that under NH RSA 153-A:11, law enforcement officers must be licensed to provide emergency medical services, which include administering medications such as Narcan, to the public. As part of the NH Project FIRST program, we will assist law enforcement agencies with obtaining Narcan licensing so they can administer Narcan to patients experiencing an opioid overdose.

NH Fire, EMS, or law enforcement agencies interested in NH Project FIRST are encouraged to contact Paula Holigan, SAMHSA FR-CARA Program Manager, at **603.223.4374** or paula.holigan@dos.nh.gov for additional information.

As always, thank you for what you do for the citizens and visitors to the Granite State.

Funding for NH Project FIRST is made possible through the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's First Responder Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Cooperative Agreement #SP080286.