



21st Century Cures Act, State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants

Background

North Carolina experienced a 73 percent spike in opioid-related deaths between 2005 and 2015. Opioid overdose also claimed the lives of more than 13,000 North Carolinians between 1999 and 2015, and four North Carolina cities rank among the nation's highest for opioid abuse rates.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded \$485 million in funding to all 50 states to combat the opioid crisis. The funding, which is the first of two rounds provided for in the 21st Century Cures Act, will be provided through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants.

The program aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery services for opioid use disorder (OUD) (including prescription opioids as well as illicit drugs such as heroin).

North Carolina Grant Award

On May 1, 2017, North Carolina received \$15,586,724 to address the opioid crisis through the 21st Century Cures Act, State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants.

SAMHSA awarded the grant to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services to increase access to prevention, treatment and recovery supports, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid-related overdoses and deaths.

- North Carolina will receive \$15,586,724. Eighty percent of these funds must support outreach, engagement, treatment and recovery services.
- Grant funds are expected to serve at least 1,460 individuals in the first year.

This grant will allow North Carolina to serve a greater number of individuals experiencing opioid use disorders and expand the number of medication-assisted treatment and opioid use disorder treatment providers into the future.

Allocations

Allocations have been made to Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs), which manage the care of individuals receiving mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance use disorder services in North Carolina.

The allocation requires LME/MCOs to carefully track their spending to claim the funding, and they must ensure that they continue to spend other existing resources to treat individuals at the same rate as prior years. LME/MCOs may not use any of the funding provided by this grant for administration.

Allocation amounts for each LME/MCO were determined based on:

1. The percentage of the population of each LME/MCO service area;
2. The number of naloxone administrations by EMS during 2015;
3. The number of emergency department visits for opioid overdoses during 2012 through 2014; and
4. The number of opioid overdose deaths.

In addition to these treatment services, funding will be available for prevention, education and outreach, screening/triage/referral, recovery supports, and provider education and development.

Funds will also be used to purchase 6,600 naloxone kits statewide, along with much needed rapid response teams to support individuals who have experienced an overdose reversal and need assistance in accessing ongoing treatment and recovery supports.

More information for providers is available at: https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/Cures_opioid_provider_QandA_8-16-17.pdf. Providers looking to participate, or individuals seeking assistance should contact their LME/MCO.