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Virginia Awarded Nearly \$52.6 Million to Continue Addressing Opioid Crisis

Federal funds will support treatment and recovery efforts for individuals with substance use disorder

RICHMOND, VA – Today, the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) announced that Virginia was awarded nearly \$52.6 million in a State Opioid Response (SOR) grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These federal funds provide targeted assistance to states that are battling the ongoing opioid crisis. These funds will help Virginia fight the opioid epidemic and stimulants from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022.

SAMHSA issues these grants to support current state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. The funds from this SOR opportunity will be distributed to localities to support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts administered by Virginia's Community Services Boards (CSB) with goals including:

- Provide prevention services to a minimum of 1,000,000 community members.
- Increase the number of people who receive opioid and stimulant treatment by enhancing strategies to improve access to these services.
- Increase the number of people receiving substance use disorder recovery services by implementing a comprehensive strategy across all five DBHDS regions.

Additionally, DBHDS will be issuing \$5.1 million of SOR grant funds to fellow state agencies, including:

- \$2.3 million to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for naloxone and peer recovery services.
- \$1.7 million to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for treatment and recovery services.
- \$600,000 to the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- \$500,000 to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) for supporting collegiate recovery programs at ten schools across Virginia.

"Ensuring individuals have access to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery resources within their communities is life-saving," **said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM.** "I am grateful for all of our partners and we will continue to work tirelessly to combat these public health crises and adjust to new challenges."

“These grant funds arrive at a crucial time as we deal with two public health emergencies: COVID-19 and the opioid crisis,” said **DBHDS Commissioner Alison Land**. “Funding treatment and supporting those in recovery is more important than ever as the impacts of COVID-19 and social distancing present unique challenges for individuals with substance use disorder and those that serve them. We’re grateful to the federal, state, and local community partners who continue to make this work possible, under rapidly changing and difficult circumstances.”

Virginia previously received \$39.5 million in SOR funds in October 2018 to fight the growing opioid crisis. Those funds have been infused in communities across Virginia and so far have resulted in substance use disorder treatment services for over 4,000 people and recovery support services for over 10,000 people. There have also been 5,789 kits to administer Naloxone to help prevent overdoses, and eight collegiate recovery programs added statewide. Grant funded programs also included increasing access to effective Medication Assisted Treatment programs, building telehealth strategies in rural and underserved areas, and strengthening treatment transition for people being released from criminal justice settings or other rehabilitation settings. Also, earlier this year, SOR funds were used to launch a multi-agency redesigned [Curb the Crisis](#) website to help those seeking information and treatment.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) seeks to promote dignity, choice, recovery, and the highest possible level of participation in work, relationships, and all aspects of community life for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance-use disorders. DBHDS operates 12 state facilities and partners with 40 locally-run community services boards and hundreds of private providers statewide. For more information, please visit www.dbhds.virginia.gov, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#).

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