

June 15, 2018



The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Directors
D.C. Update

Federal agency updates, news from NASADAD, and more.

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SAMHSA Resources Funding Opportunity Announcement

SAMHSA releases updated Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released an updated version of its Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. The toolkit offers information and facts from the literature, and links to resources to prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. The toolkit is divided into four sections each target a specific audience: community members, first responders, prescribers, patients, and families.

Access the toolkit [here](#).

SAMHSA's Finding Quality Treatment for Substance Use Disorders is now available in Spanish

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a Spanish translation of its fact sheet, *Finding Quality Treatment for Substance Use Disorders*. This fact sheet serves as a guide for individuals seeking substance use disorder treatment. It outlines the three necessary steps to complete prior to utilizing a treatment center, and lists the five signs of a quality treatment center, which include a review of the accreditation, medication, evidence-based practices, position on the role of families, and support networks.

Access the fact sheet in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

SAMHSA releases FOA for State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

Earlier this week, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released its funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the new State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program.

SOR aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD), reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for OUD. These grants will be awarded to States and territories via formula. The program also includes a 15 percent set-aside for the ten states with the highest mortality rate related to drug overdose deaths.

The anticipated total funding is \$930,000,000, which includes the 15 percent set-aside for the ten States hardest hit by the crisis. Eligibility is limited to Single State Agencies (SSAs) and territories. Tribes will be eligible to apply under a separate announcement

Applications are due August 13, 2018.

Access the FOA [here](#).

News from NASADAD

NASADAD staff present at House Minority Whip Briefing

On Friday, June 8, 2018, NASADAD's Executive Director and Director of Legislative Affairs, Robert Morrison, spoke at a Minority Whip Briefing at the U.S. House of Representatives. Each week, the office of the Minority Whip, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), holds a briefing for staff of junior democratic offices. Topics at these briefings vary every week, and NASADAD was invited to present on issues related to the opioid crisis. The presentation included an overview of:

- NASADAD;
- The critical role of the State alcohol and drug agencies;
- Previous legislative actions, including passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and 21st Century Cures Act of 2016;
- the Association's priorities, including the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant; and
- Current considerations on pending opioid-related legislation.

To see slides from the presentation, click [here](#).



NASADAD attends meeting with House Majority Leadership regarding "Opioids Week"

On Monday, June 11, 2018, NASADAD's Robert Morrison attended a meeting with the Office of the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI); Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA); and the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means to discuss House consideration of a series of bills to combat the opioid crisis. The briefing was designed to help stakeholders understand not only the process as these bills move forward, but also the content of the bills and potential impact of the various pieces of legislation.

See Majority Leader McCarthy speaking at a press conference about current congressional efforts to address the opioid crisis [here](#).

Around the Agencies

AHRQ releases report on noninvasive, nonpharmacological chronic pain treatment

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently published a report, *Noninvasive Nonpharmacological Treatment for Chronic Pain: A Systematic Review*. This report assesses which noninvasive, nonpharmacological treatments for certain common chronic pain conditions improve pain and function for at least one month post-treatment. Exercise, multidisciplinary rehabilitation, acupuncture, cognitive behavioral therapy, and mind-body practices were most consistently associated with improvements for the included conditions.

Access the report [here](#).

CMS issues guidance to help States combat the opioid crisis

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance to help ensure that States have the flexibility and the tools they need to combat the opioid crisis. Specifically, CMS released an Informational Bulletin that provides States with information they can use when designing approaches to covering treatment services for Medicaid-eligible infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). Additionally, CMS issued a letter to States on how they can use federal funding to enhance Medicaid technology to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis.

Access the Informational Bulletin on NAS [here](#), and the letter to State Medicaid Directors [here](#).

NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative

In April 2018, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched its [Helping to End Addiction Long-term \(HEAL\) Initiative](#), which is an effort to accelerate scientific solutions to address the opioid crisis. This Initiative will build on NIH research, including: basic science of the neurological pathways involved in pain and addiction; implementation science to develop and test treatment models; and research to integrate behavioral interventions with medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). Over the past year, NIH has worked with experts from public and private organizations to identify the areas that would most benefit from focused efforts by NIH alone or in partnership with outside organizations.

Upcoming Events

Webcast on "A future without discrimination and discriminatory practices"

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in partnership with the Massachusetts General Hospital's (MGH) Recovery Research Institute, will air the fourth and final webcast from the [series](#), "The Power of Perceptions and Understanding: Changing How We Deliver Treatment and Recovery Services."

This final webcast, entitled, "A future without discrimination and discriminatory practices," will address the following questions:

- What would the treatment and public health landscape look like if we were to completely eradicate discriminatory practices?
- What steps would need to be taken to ensure this happens?

The webinar will be held June 19, 2018 at 2:00 pm EST. Register [here](#).

SAMHSA-HRSA webinar on Clinical Strategies to Promote Medication Adherence

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions will be hosting a webinar on the importance of medication adherence for individuals with substance use and mental disorders, and key recommendations for organizations to promote medication adherence. The webinar will review:

- impact of medication non-adherence on the individual, family, and community
- consumers' perspectives and concerns related to medication
- recommendations to improve medication adherence
- how one integrated care setting is successful in promoting medication adherence
- tools and resources to promote medication adherence

The webinar will be held on June 19, 2018 at 2:00 pm EST. Register [here](#).