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DC Update: NASADAD Releases Updated Brief on the Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies, Children of Alcoholics Awareness Week, SAMHSA, ACF, & CMS Dear Colleague Letter and More.

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NASADAD News

NASADAD Releases Updated Brief on the Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies

NASADAD announces release of an updated brief that reviews the important role of State alcohol and drug agencies play in managing the publicly funded prevention, treatment, and recovery system. The brief notes that these agencies operate under different State statutes and regulations and vary in size, along with agency placement within government. Despite these differences, they share important common characteristics and play a central role in administering comprehensive substance use disorder services. Examples of core functions of State alcohol and drug agencies include:

- Managing the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant and opioid-specific grants such as the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant
- Promoting effectiveness through planning, oversight, and accountability
- Data reporting
- Promoting and ensuring quality
- Encouraging collaboration across State government

- Working with the provider community

Special thanks to Dr. Shanthy Edwards, NASADAD's Senior Communications Specialist, for her work to modernize this important document.

To access the brief, please visit NASADAD's web page under "Our Members" tab or visit https://nasadad.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Role-of-the-SSA_v6_1.9.2026.pdf.

Prevention Coordinators Gather at CADCA Forum

On Thursday, February 4, a number of prevention coordinators gathered to discuss business related to the National Prevention Network (NPN). A number of NPNs were in town for the 36th Annual National Leadership Forum convened by CADCA. The meeting allowed NPNs to connect, share, engage in planning, and receive an update on recent public policy developments. Special thanks to those prevention coordinators participating, including NPN President is Pat Zuber-Wilson from New York. NASADAD staff supporting the meeting included Dr. Tracy Flinn, Cara Dufresne, Melanie Whitter, and Robert Morrison. We also wish to recognize CADCA for their partnership and hospitality.



Around the Agencies

SAMHSA, ACF, & CMS Dear Colleague Letter: Keeping Families Together with Expanded Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued a Dear Colleague letter encouraging states, tribes, territories, and local partners to take immediate steps to ensure people with opioid use disorder can access medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) without delay. This letter follows the ACF's recent designation of MOUDs as "well-supported" in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, thus making them eligible for inclusion in state Title IV-E prevention plans. With this funding, states and tribes are now eligible for a 50% federal match to provide buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone to parents when children are at imminent risk of entering foster care but can safely remain at home or in kinship care with access to these treatments. The agencies seek to close treatment gaps and strengthen long-term family well-being by aligning child welfare, Medicaid, mental health, and substance use disorder systems.

The Dear Colleague letter can be accessed [here](#).

February 8 - 14, 2026 is Children of Alcoholics Awareness Week

February 8 to 14, 2026, is designated as Children of Alcoholics (COA) Awareness Week. This global campaign aims to increase awareness of the challenges faced by millions of children affected by parental addiction. Additional information on participation through social media, proclamations, educational initiatives, speaker series, events, merchandise, and other resources is available on the National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA) website. The NACoA is led by Ms. Denise Bertin-Epp, Chief Executive Officer (CEO).



ACF Press Release: Expanding Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder for At-Risk Families

This week, the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released a press release titled *ACF Expands Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder for At-Risk Families*. The ACF announced that three FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder are now eligible for funding as prevention services under Title IV-E, which supports children and families in the child welfare system. States and tribes are now eligible for a 50% federal match to provide buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone to parents when children are at imminent risk of entering foster care but can safely remain at home or in kinship care with access to these treatments. Interested states, tribes, and territories may obtain sample program language and requirements from the ACF's Children's Bureau. Technical assistance is also available through the National Child Welfare Center on Innovation and Advancement and the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare.

The press release can be accessed [here](#).

HRSA: 2025 Year in Review

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) published its *2025 Year in Review*. The HRSA has worked to advance its mission to improve health outcomes to strengthen access to care nationwide. Some metrics of note include the following:



- HRSA-supported health centers served 32.4 million patients, including 1.1 million new patients, expanded telehealth to 17.6 million virtual visits, and provided preventive screenings to more than 10 million people.
- The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provided health care and support to nearly 602,000 people. Patients in the program achieved a 91.4% viral suppression rate.
- Rural health programs served 522,750 people, added 425 new mental health and substance use service providers, and created 60 new accredited rural residency programs since 2019. Naloxone was distributed at about 95% of Rural Communities Opioid Response Program sites.

The full HRSA 2025 Year in Review can be accessed [here](#).

HRSA Funding Opportunity: NHSC Loan Repayment Programs

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is now accepting applications for three loan repayment programs: [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#), [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#), and [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#). These programs are designed to provide primary care, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers working at NHSC-approved sites with funding to be used toward their student loan debt. To be eligible, applicants must:

- "Be a U.S. citizen or national.
- Have a license to practice in the discipline and state you are applying to serve.
- Be a provider (or eligible to participate as a provider) in the Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, as appropriate.
- Have qualifying student loan debt.

- Work at an NHSC-approved site.”

Applications are due March 31 at 7:30 p.m. ET. Eligible individuals may receive up to \$100,000 to pay off their student loans.

To apply for loan repayment and check application status, applicants must set up an account in My Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) [here](#).

Research Roundup

NIDA Director’s Blog: All of Us Research Program “Unlocking Insights” Challenge Winners

In June, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) launched the [“Unlocking Insights: Analyzing All of Us Data for Drug Addiction Research”](#) Challenge. This data-science competition encourages innovative use of the [All of Us Research Program’s](#) extensive database, which includes electronic health records, surveys, biospecimens, wearable data, genomic information, and physical measurements, to advance understanding of substance use and addiction. Participating teams from universities, companies, and nonprofits were asked to identify and analyze correlations among genetic, environmental, developmental, and behavioral factors that influence addiction risk, resilience, treatment outcomes, or other aspects of substance use disorders. The challenge seeks to accelerate insights that can inform prevention, intervention, and policy.



The blog post featuring the winning challenge projects can be accessed [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

The National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery Webinar

Contingency Management is an effective evidence-based intervention for changing substance use behaviors. It works by offering immediate, tangible rewards (such as vouchers or incentives) when individuals meet treatment goals—an approach shown to drive meaningful and sustained behavior change.

Please join the Center of Excellence for Tobacco Free Recovery on Thursday, February 26th, 2026 at 1 p.m. ET for a live virtual webinar exploring how contingency management can be applied to support tobacco cessation, particularly for people with mental health and substance use conditions

Registration is available [here](#).

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