

March 26, 2026



DC Update: House Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing on Illicit Drug Threats, Problem Gambling Awareness Month, Office of Justice Programs NOFOs, and More.

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Capitol Hill Happenings

House Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing on Illicit Drug Threats

On March 26 at 2:00 pm, the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing titled, [*"Policies to Protect Our Communities from Illicit Drug Threats."*](#) The hearing will focus on legislation related to illicit substances, including the Combatting Illicit Xylazine Act, Tyler's Law, STOP Nitazenes Act, END 7-OH Act, Stop the Pills that Kill Act, Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act, Alternatives to Pain Act, Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act, ALERT Communities Act, HERO Act, and Prohibiting Tianeptine and Other Dangerous Products Act of 2026. The hearing will also discuss H.R. 5629, which aims to rescind the final rule of the Department of Health and Human Services titled "Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder," except for the portion of the final rule relating to accreditation of opioid treatment programs.



The hearing will be open to the public and press at 2123 Rayburn House Office Building.

The livestream of the hearing will be available on the Committee website, [here](#).

85 House Members seek robust funding for Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant

On Thursday, March 24th, eighty-five (85) Members of Congress sent a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education articulating the benefits of robust funding for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant. The letter, led by Representatives Tonko (D-N.Y.) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA), was sent to Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Subcommittee Chair, and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Subcommittee Ranking Member. The SUPTRS Block Grant is a formula grant managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) allocated to all States, District of Columbia, and Territories to support prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services. In FY 2026, Congress approved \$2,013,079,000.00 for the program or a \$5,000,000.00 increase compared to FY 2025. To view the letter, please visit the NASADAD website, [here](#).

Around the Agencies

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month



The month of March is designated as [Problem Gambling Awareness Month](#) (PGAM). This nationwide campaign aims to increase public awareness of problem gambling, encourage healthcare providers to screen clients for problem gambling, and promote prevention, treatment, and recovery services. To facilitate PGAM promotion efforts, the [National Council on Problem Gambling](#) (NCPG) has compiled a toolkit with problem gambling FAQs, best practices for social media, a press release template, and more. The NCPG has also [PGAM Events Calendar](#), which compiles different PGAM events from across the country.

OJP Funding Opportunity: Adult Treatment Court Program

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is now accepting applications for funding for BJA [FY25 Adult Treatment Court](#) (ATC) Programs. This funding is to support the implementation and enhancement of ATCs, which aim to reduce recidivism, reduce overdose fatalities, and increase access to treatment and recovery support by integrating Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment, mandatory drug testing, incentives and sanctions, and transitional services in a judicially supervised criminal court setting with jurisdiction over individuals with SUDs. Categories of available funding are as follows:

- Category 1: Planning and Implementation (Anticipated Award Amount: \$950,000)
- Category 2: Enhancement (Anticipated Award Amount: \$1,000,000)
- Category 3: Statewide (Anticipated Award Amount: \$2,500,000)

State, county, city, township, tribal governments, and other local government units may be eligible for funding categories 1 and 2. State agencies may be eligible for funding category 3.

Applications are due on April 27 at 11:59PM EST to Grants.Gov [and](#) May 4 at 8:59 PM EST to JustGrants.

OJP Funding Opportunity: Veterans Treatment Court Program

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is now accepting applications for funding for [FY25 Veterans Treatment Court](#) (VTC) Programs. This funding is to support the implementation and enhancement of VTCs, which aim to reduce recidivism, reduce overdose fatalities, and increase access to treatment and recovery support by connecting justice-involved veterans to treatment for substance use disorders (SUD), mental health disorders (MHD), co-occurring MHDs and SUDs (MHSUD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Categories of available funding are as follows:



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- Category 1: Planning and Implementation (Anticipated Award Amount: \$950,000)
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- Category 3: Statewide (Anticipated Award Amount: \$2,500,000)

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State Spotlight

Opioid Settlement Funds and Philanthropy Support New Adolescent Outpatient Program in Georgia

Addiction Alliance of Georgia

EMORY
HEALTHCARE



Hazelden Betty Ford
Foundation

The [Addiction Alliance of Georgia](#) (AAG) has opened a new Adolescent Outpatient Program at the [Emory Addiction Center](#) in Atlanta. This expansion is supported by \$2.5 million in philanthropic gifts and a \$4.4 million Georgia opioid abatement grant as part of the state's allocation from the 2022 national opioid settlement with pharmaceutical companies. The program was also made possible through contributions from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation and The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation. The funding provides treatment scholarships for uninsured or underinsured adolescents, expands family services, and supports outcomes research to measure and improve program effectiveness while increasing overall treatment capacity. The space was also designed for adolescents and their families, addressing early intervention and treatment services for youth and families across Georgia.

New Pennsylvania Addiction Action Network Guides Counties Using Opioid Settlement Funds

The [Pennsylvania Addiction Action Network](#), led by Penn State's Social Science Research Institute's Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction (CSUA), aims to bring together stakeholders statewide to help counties determine the most effective use of opioid settlement funds. Counties are to provide data, including overdose deaths, youth substance use, and emergency department visits. The network will then analyze and coordinate this information to support local decision makers in opioid prevention and intervention efforts. Penn State will facilitate in-person and virtual workshops to encourage real-time sharing of strategies, innovations, and evidence-based practices. The network will also offer technical assistance and training on interventions funded by opioid settlement dollars. Funding for this network totals \$750,000 from the fiscal year 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Johns Hopkins University Hosts Session on Opioid Settlement Spending

On Wednesday, March 25, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director, attended an event on opioid settlement spending sponsored by the Center for Mental Health and Addiction Policy which is housed in Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. Opening remarks were offered by Abigail Winiker of Johns Hopkins. The panel, moderated by Aneri Pattani of KFF Health News, featured perspectives from local county opioid settlement administrators in North Carolina and Minnesota. Closing remarks were provided by Regina LaBelle of Georgetown University.

Research Roundup

Study Analyzes Impact of Connectedness on PCEs Among Those Impacted by Parental or Caregiver Substance Use

A group of researchers recently published a story in Children and Youth Services Review on [Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences \(PCEs\) Among Those Impacted by Parental Substance Use: The Role of Multi-Level Connectedness](#). This qualitative study conducted an inductive thematic analysis of interviews and discussion groups with parents whose children had been removed due to parental substance use and caregivers of children who had been removed from their homes to better understand connectedness as a PCE. The study utilized purposive sampling from six counties from three states with varying rates of opioid overdose mortality and foster care entries, resulting in the selection of 25 parents and 56 caregivers. The study found that connectedness was identified as an important theme across participant types. Other key findings include:

- "Community partners identified programs that promoted connectedness for children (e.g., mentoring) as important prevention strategies.
- Both parents and caregivers across all communities described the importance of connecting with peers and their children.
- Caregivers expressed the need to connect to other caregivers and to their case workers for additional support.
- Connectedness between programs and systems at the community level were also important determinants of a comprehensive system of care for parents and children."

The findings support the importance of connectedness as a strategy to promote PCEs and prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

The study can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

CoE-IHS Webinar: Care Coordination and Referral Partnerships in the Integrated Care Field



The [Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions](#) is excited to share that on Tuesday, March 31 from 3 - 4pm ET, the Center will be hosting a webinar titled, "Care Coordination and Referral Partnerships in the Integrated Care Field." This will be an engaging webinar about strengthening care coordination and referral partnerships across

the health care continuum. This webinar is intended for health care providers or professionals that work in behavioral health and/or physical health systems.

Registration is available, [here](#).

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