

April 15, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD releases Overview of Recent Funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, Biden Administration releases FY 2022 budget summary, and more



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### Meet the Member

#### Michele Tilotta, Women's Services Coordinator from State of Iowa

Michele Tilotta, MPA, BSN, RN, currently works for the Iowa Department of Public Health and is a registered nurse with 35 years' experience in nursing, including mental health and substance use disorder services, quality improvement, management, managed care, and public health. Ms. Tilotta works in the Division of Behavioral Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse, and has held various positions at the Department. She is currently the Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention (SAPT) Block Grant and Synar Manager. Ms. Tilotta graduated from the University of Graceland (Iowa) with a Bachelors in Nursing and from Drake University (Iowa) with a Master of Public Administration and an emphasis in Healthcare Administration.



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### News from NASADAD



[NASADAD releases Overview of Recent Funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment \(SAPT\) Block Grant](#)

## Overview of Recent Funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant

There have been three recent investments in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. We offer an overview and details below.

**Consolidated Appropriations Act:** In December 2020, Congress approved and President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260). The law includes, among many provisions, two separate investments in the SAPT Block Grant: \$1.858 billion through the annual or "regular" FY 2021 appropriations process and \$1.65 billion in supplemental funding provided as part of the law's section dedicated to COVID-19 relief.

**The American Rescue Plan:** In March 2021, Congress approved and President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2). The law includes an additional separate allotment in the SAPT Block Grant: \$1.5 billion in longer term supplemental funding for the SAPT Block Grant.

Annual FY 2021 Appropriations as part of Consolidated Appropriations Act (December 2020)	Supplemental Funding as part of Consolidated Appropriations Act (December 2020)	Supplemental Funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total appropriation:</b> \$1.858 billion</li> <li>• <b>No changes to requirements under the existing statute:</b> Maintains requirements governing the existing set-asides.</li> <li>• <b>Flexibility in allowable uses:</b> There is no flexibility in allowable use funds for this allocation to the SAPT Block Grant.</li> <li>• <b>Application due date:</b> As identified in the SAPT Block Grant application.</li> <li>• <b>Timeline:</b> States have until September 30, 2022 to spend these funds.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total appropriation:</b> \$1.65 billion</li> <li>• <b>No changes to requirements under the existing statute:</b> Maintains requirements governing the existing set-asides.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Flexibility in allowable uses: Final legislative text says SAMHSA "... shall maintain the 20 percent set-aside for prevention, but may waive requirements with respect to <i>allowable activities, timelines, or reporting requirements</i> for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant... as deemed necessary to facilitate a grantee's response to coronavirus."</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Application due date:</b> April 5, 2021</li> <li>• <b>Timeline:</b> States have until March 14, 2023 to spend these funds.</li> <li>• <b>Award amounts by State:</b> SAMHSA released a <a href="#">list of award amounts by State</a> for these supplemental funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total appropriation:</b> \$1.5 billion</li> <li>• <b>No changes to requirements under the existing statute:</b> Maintains requirements governing the existing set-asides.</li> <li>• <b>Flexibility in allowable uses:</b> There is no flexibility in allowable use of funds for this allocation to the SAPT Block Grant.</li> <li>• <b>Application due date:</b> To be determined.</li> <li>• <b>Timeline:</b> Allows States until September 30, 2025 to spend these supplemental funds. As noted above, the application due date is to be determined.</li> </ul> 

Questions? Contact Rob Morrison ([rmorrison@nasadad.org](mailto:rmorrison@nasadad.org)), Shalini Wickramatilake ([swickramatilake@nasadad.org](mailto:swickramatilake@nasadad.org)), or Emily Diehl ([ediehl@nasadad.org](mailto:ediehl@nasadad.org))

April 2021

NASADAD is pleased to announce the release of an [overview of recent funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment \(SAPT\) Block Grant](#). The document summarizes the SAPT Block Grant funds that have recently been appropriated by Congress. Specifically, the overview describes:

1. \$1.65 billion in supplemental funding that was appropriated as part of the December 2020 COVID-19 relief package and [announced](#) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on March 11<sup>th</sup>
2. \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding that was included in the March 2021 *American Rescue Plan*; and
3. The appropriation for the SAPT Block Grant as part of the final regular FY 2021 appropriations package.

For each category of SAPT Block Grant funding, the overview includes: the total appropriation; maintenance of requirements governing the existing set-asides per statute; any flexibility in allowable uses; application due date; and timeline for spending funds.

### Capitol Hill Happenings

#### Biden Administration releases FY 2022 budget summary

On April 9, 2021, President Biden released his Administration's high-level [summary](#) (beginning on pg. 4) of the FY 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022) proposed budget. The budget summary, which was released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), describes the Administration's overall plan and funding priorities for FY 2022. A more detailed budget with specific funding recommendations is expected to be sent to congressional appropriators in the months ahead. The Administration proposes \$133.7 billion in base discretionary funding for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), an increase of \$25 billion compared to FY 2021. Details about funding levels for sub-agencies, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), are not available in the summary document. However, the following language related to

substance use and related issues is included:

- **"Makes a Major Investment to Help End the Opioid Epidemic:** The opioid epidemic has shattered families, claimed lives, and ravaged communities across the Nation—and the COVID-19 pandemic has only deepened this crisis. That is why the discretionary request includes a *historic investment of \$10.7 billion, an increase of \$3.9 billion over the 2021 enacted level*, to support research, prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, with targeted investments to support populations with unique needs, including Native Americans, older Americans, and rural populations."
- **"Expands Access to Mental Healthcare:** The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the prevalence of mental health disorders and further strained the Nation's mental healthcare system. The discretionary request builds on mental health resources included in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by calling for historic investments, including \$1.6 billion, more than double the 2021 enacted level, for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and additional funding to support the needs of those who are involved in the criminal justice system, resources to partner mental health providers with law enforcement, and funds to expand suicide prevention activities."
- **"Commits to Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic:** To help accelerate and strengthen efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, the discretionary request includes \$670 million within HHS to help aggressively reduce new HIV cases while increasing access to treatment, expanding the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP), and ensuring equitable access to services and supports."
- **"Improves Readiness for Future Public Health Crises:** The discretionary request includes \$8.7 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—the largest budget authority increase in nearly two decades—to restore capacity at the world's preeminent public health agency. Building on the investments in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, CDC would use this additional funding to support core public health capacity improvements in States and Territories, modernize public health data collection nationwide, train new epidemiologists and other public health experts, and build international capacity to detect, prepare for, and respond to emerging global threats."
- **"Reforms the Federal Criminal Justice System:** The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgent need to reduce prison populations and reform the Nation's criminal justice system. The discretionary request supports key investments in First Step Act (FSA) implementation, advancing the provision of high-quality substance use disorder treatment, reentry services, and recidivism reduction programming. Building on the bipartisan FSA, the discretionary request also incorporates savings from prison population reduction measures that prioritize incarceration alternatives for low-risk offenders."
- **"Invests in Community Policing, Police Reform, and Other Efforts to Address Systemic Inequities:** The Administration will take bold action to root out systemic inequities in the Nation's justice system. In addition to investing in programs that support community-oriented policing and practices, the discretionary request also proposes to expand grants that support efforts to reform State and local criminal justice systems, including funding to support juvenile justice programs, drug courts and alternative court programs, public defenders, and Second Chance Act programs."

### [House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health holds hearing, "An Epidemic within a Pandemic: Understanding Substance Use and Misuse in America"](#)

Yesterday, the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Health within the Committee on Energy & Commerce held a legislative hearing titled, "[An Epidemic within a Pandemic: Understanding Substance Use and Misuse in America](#)." The Subcommittee, which is led by Chairwoman Anna Eschoo (D-CA) and Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-KY), convened two panels, the first of which featured



Regina LaBelle, Acting Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The second panel's witnesses included: Geoffrey Laredo, Principal, Santa Cruz Strategies, LLC; Patricia L. Richman, National Sentencing and Resource Counsel, Federal Public and Community Defenders; Mark Vargo, Pennington County State's Attorney in South Dakota; Dr. Timothy Westlake, Emergency Department Medical Director for Pro Health Care Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital; and Dr. J. Deanna Wilson, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

A number of bills were discussed during the hearing, including:

- H.R. 654, the "Drug-Free Communities Pandemic Relief Act"
- H.R. 955, the "Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021"
- H.R. 1384, the "Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021"
- H.R. 1910, the "Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting Fentanyl Act"
- H.R. 2051, the "Methamphetamine Response Act"
- H.R. 2067, the "Medication Access and Training Expansion Act"
- H.R. 2355, the "Opioid Prescription Verification Act"
- H.R. 2364, the "Synthetic Opioid Danger Awareness Act"
- H.R. 2366, the "Support, Treatment, and Overdose Prevention of Fentanyl Act of 2021"
- H.R. 2379, the "State Opioid Response Grant Reauthorization Act"
- H.R. 2405, the "Streamlining Research on Controlled Substances Act"

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## Around the Agencies

### NIAAA announces latest annual update to Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has announced the latest update to its [Alcohol Policy Information System \(APIS\)](#). This includes updates related to State-by-State alcohol policies, recreational cannabis policies, and policies related to substance use during pregnancy. The Pregnancy and Drugs dataset and Pregnancy and Alcohol dataset include the following policy topics: civil commitment policies; mandatory warning signs in marijuana dispensaries; priority treatment access mandates for pregnant women; prohibitions against use of the results of medical tests in criminal prosecution; reporting requirements for drug use during pregnancy; and child abuse/child neglect.



Additionally, APIS announced the release of updated resources that aim to assist researchers in studying the effects of alcohol-related policies that have been implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19-specific dataset and codebook can be accessed [here](#).

### FDA and AAP release video series addressing youth e-cigarette use

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) partnered with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to develop a series of videos that features pediatricians answering questions about youth e-cigarette use. The videos, which are available on the FDA's [website](#) cover the following topics:

- 1) Pediatricians' Overview of Vaping
- 2) How to Identify Signs of Youth Vaping and Nicotine Addiction
- 3) Resources Available to Address E-Cigarette Youth

The website includes other educational materials for parents and educators as well, which are meant to help adults start conversations with youth about the dangers of tobacco use.



### National Prevention Week Challenge

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Prevention Week (NPW), sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will be held from May 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. SAMHSA has announced that in honor of its tenth year, NPW will include a [#YouthLeadingPrevention Video Challenge](#). The goal of this challenge is to highlight prevention efforts that are being led by youth.

Substance use organizations and stakeholders are encouraged to identify youth leaders and encourage them to create and post videos to their social media accounts about their prevention efforts, tagging @SAMHSAgov and using the hashtag #YouthLeadingPrevention. The deadline to submit a video is April 22nd.

### CDC releases State-by-State opioid funding snapshots

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [released](#) State-by-State snapshots of opioid-related funding from NCIPC. Each State snapshot includes 2019 overdose death statistics, an FY 2020 funding overview, and examples of how the State is working to prevent overdose. The funding overviews specifically include the allocations each State received—if applicable—from the following categories of NCIPC funding: Overdose Data to Action grant program, Public Health and Public Safety, and Research.

### HRSA webinar on Federal Broadband Programs and Resources

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will hold a webinar on federal broadband programs and resources on Wednesday, April 21, from 1:00-2:00 pm EST. Specifically, the webinar will review: the Rural Health Care Program; COVID-19 Telehealth Program and Connected Care Pilot Program; Emergency Broadband Benefit; and the Lifeline Program. Click [here](#) to register.

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## In the News

### National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) launches podcast series

Earlier this week, the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) launched its new podcast series, [The NCJA Podcast](#). NCJA represents the State criminal justice agencies—or State Administering Agencies (SAAs)—and aims to assist those agencies in the development and implementation of effective criminal justice policy. This podcast, which is produced with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Department of Justice (DOJ), discusses promising practices in the criminal justice field across the States, and offers background on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program within DOJ.



The [first episode](#) offers an overview of the Byrne JAG program. Director of Government Affairs at NCJA, Elizabeth Pyke, provides responses to frequently asked questions about the Byrne JAG program, reviewing the role of the SAA, the purpose of the grant, and how grant funds are used.