

# Reauthorization of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant

*(Formerly the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment [SAPT] Block Grant)*

**The Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant**, formerly the SAPT Block Grant, housed within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is a federal block grant distributed by formula to all States, Territories, and jurisdictions. The SUPTRS Block Grant supports States to “plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance [use]” ([SAMHSA, 2022](#)).

**Recent federal action:** On December 29, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 ([H.R. 2617](#)) now, [Public Law No: 117-164](#). This large omnibus bill included FY 2023 appropriations and provisions reauthorizing certain federal programs, including those within SAMHSA, such as the SUPTRS Block Grant, for fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2027.

**Pathway in the U.S. House of Representatives:** The Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant Act of 2022 (H.R. 7235) was introduced by Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Susan Wild (D-PA), and David McKinley (R-WV). Ultimately, H.R. 7235 was included in a larger package of substance use disorder and mental health bills titled the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 (H.R. 7666). H.R. 7666 (Committee Report 117-364) was approved by the full House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 18, 2022. The full House of Representatives considered and approved the bill on June 22, 2022, by a vote of 402-20.

**Pathway in the U.S. Senate:** The Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Act (S. 4301) was introduced by Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) on May 25, 2022. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). The SUPTRS Block Grant was last reauthorized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) in December 2016. The authorization applied through FY 2022. The bill was never considered formally by the Senate HELP Committee.

**More on the SUPTRS Block Grant:** The SUPTRS Block Grant serves as the cornerstone of States’ substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery systems. The funds are dedicated to help implement evidenced-based programming. State alcohol and drug agencies oversee the funds through tools such as performance data management/reporting, contract monitoring, corrective action planning, onsite reviews, and technical assistance. States are required to spend at least 20 percent of SUPTRS Block Grant funds on primary prevention strategies. State alcohol and drug agencies are also required to report on the funding amounts and types of recovery support services supported through the SUPTRS Block Grant. In addition, the Block Grant by statute is designed to serve priority populations and service areas such as:

- Pregnant women and women with dependent children
- People who use intravenous drugs
- Tuberculosis services
- Early intervention services for HIV/AIDS

**Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies:** State alcohol and drug agencies within the fifty States, District of Columbia, and Territories manage and oversee their respective SUPTRS Block Grant. States work with counties, local communities, and providers to ensure that public dollars are dedicated to effective and efficient programs by using tools such as performance data management and reporting, contract monitoring, corrective action planning, onsite reviews, and technical assistance. The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) serves as the voice of State alcohol and drug agencies in Washington, D.C.

## Overview of SUPTRS Block Grant Reauthorization

	<i>Action in the House of Representatives</i>	<i>Action in the Senate</i>	<i>Public Law</i>
	<b>Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 (<a href="#">H.R.7666</a>)</b>	<b>Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Act (<a href="#">S.4301</a>)</b>	<b>Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (<a href="#">H.R. 2617</a>, <a href="#">Section. 1245</a>) <a href="#">Public Law No: 117-164</a></b>
<b><u>Sponsor(s)</u></b>	Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. [D-NJ-6]	Senators Hassan [D-NH], Murkowski [R-AK], and Lujan [D-N.M.]	Rep. Gerald Connolly [D-VA-11]
<b><u>Committee of Jurisdiction</u></b>	House Committee on Energy and Commerce	Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)	House - Oversight and Reform, Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
<b><u>Changes to the SAPT Block Grant Name</u></b>	<b>✓ Included</b> “Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Block Grant”	<b>✓ Included</b> “Block Grant for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use”	<b>✓ Included</b> “Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant”
<b><u>Authorization level: FY 22: \$1,858,079,000</u></b>	<b>↑ Increase</b> “\$1,908,079,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”	<b>↑ Increase</b> “\$3,200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”	<b>↑ Increase</b> “\$1,908,079,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”
<b><u>Proposal to Establish a New Recovery Support Services Set-Side</u></b>	<b>X Not Included</b> Instead of a new recovery services set-aside, required States, in their SAPT Block Grant plan, to “...provide a description of the State’s comprehensive statewide recovery support services activities, including the number of individuals served, target populations, and priority needs; and the amount of funds received...expended on recovery support services...” [ <a href="#">H.R. 7666, 2022</a> ]	<b>✓ Included</b> Required States to spend at least 10 percent of SAPT Block Grant funds for “community-based and peer recovery support services for individuals with a substance use disorder” in 2024. <a href="#">[S.4301, 2022]</a>	<b>X Not Included</b> “The agreement does not include a new set-aside within the SABG for recovery services, but urges SAMHSA to strongly encourage States to use a portion of their SABG funding for recovery support services.” [ <a href="#">Explanatory Statement, DIVISION H-DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023</a> ] Instead of a new recovery services set-aside, the final bill includes the following:  “In order for a State to be in compliance with subsection (a)(6), the State shall submit to the Secretary a plan that, at a minimum, includes the following: (A) A description of the State’s system of care that-... ‘(vi) provides a description of— “(I) the State’s comprehensive statewide recovery support services activities, including the number of individuals being served, target populations, workforce...”

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<b><u>Continued...Proposal to Establish a New Recovery Support Services Set-Side</u></b>			...capacity (consistent with clause (viii)), and priority needs; and “(II) the amount of funds received under this subpart expended on recovery support services, disaggregated by the amount expended for type of service activity;..” <a href="#">[H.R. 2617]</a>
<b><u>Changes to HIV Set-Aside</u></b>	<p><b>✓ Included</b></p> <p>Beginning in FY 2025, any State whose rate of cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is 10 or more such cases per 100,000 individuals (as indicated by the CDC) must allocate 5 percent of SAPT Block Grant funds to early intervention services. The previous proxy was AIDS cases per 100,000 individuals. <a href="#">[H.R. 7666, 2022]</a></p>	<b>X Not Included</b>	<b>X Not Included</b>
<b><u>Changes to Allowable and Required Use of Funds</u></b>	<p><b>✓ Included</b></p> <p>States are required to routinely make available viral hepatitis screening and referral services to each individual receiving treatment for such disorders. <a href="#">[H.R. 7666, 2022]</a></p>	<p><b>✓ Included</b></p> <p>“Measures for infrastructure, education, or outreach to prevent overdose or other health risks”</p> <p>“Allow a State to allocate between 5 and 10 percent of SAPT Block Grant funds for the purpose of providing treatment services in penal or correctional institutions”</p> <p>“Barring funds from going to recovery programs that are not evidence-based. For instance, organizations that refuse to serve individuals receiving medication-assisted treatment – which is the gold standard for opioid use disorder treatment – would not be able to receive funding.” <a href="#">[Murkowski, 2022]</a></p>	<b>X Not Included</b>

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<b><u>Language Changes</u></b>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b> Removes “abuse” and other stigmatizing language.</p>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b> Removes “abuse” and other stigmatizing language.</p>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b> Removes “abuse” and other stigmatizing language.</p>
<b><u>Development of a New Model Needs Assessment</u></b>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b></p>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b></p>	<p>✓ <b>Included</b> “The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), shall, in consultation with States and other local entities providing prevention, treatment, or recovery support services related to substance use, conduct a study on strategies to assess community needs with respect to such services in order to facilitate State use of block grant funding received under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–21 et seq.) to provide services to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support. The study shall, where feasible and appropriate, include estimates of resources for community needs strategies respective to prevention, treatment, or recovery support services.” [<a href="#">H.R. 2617</a>]</p>