

February 15, 2024



**D.C. Update: NASADAD Federal Update: Proposed Funding for FY 2024, SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Grants to Expand Treatment Drug Courts, NIH Announces National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, and More.**

Visit our Website



---

## Meet The Member

### **Tahnee Bryant, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for West Virginia**

Tahnee Bryant is the Substance Use Prevention/Early Intervention and Expanded School Mental Health Program Manager II for the West Virginia Department of Human Services Bureau for Behavioral Health. She also serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for West Virginia. Mrs. Bryant also currently serves as the Chairperson for the West Virginia Prevention Steering Committee and Co-Chair for the Expanded School Mental Health Leadership Team.



Mrs. Bryant has over 30 years' experience within the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) field in various leadership positions. In addition to teaching at the primary level early in her career, she has also served as an instructor within higher education. Mrs. Bryant's focus over the past several years has been on building the certified prevention specialist workforce and the implementation of evidence-based programs and practices in the State. She prioritizes helping children and youth thrive in their homes, schools, and communities.

Mrs. Bryant has an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a Graduate degree in Leadership, both from Marshall University.

---

## NASADAD Federal Update: Proposed Funding for FY 2024

NASADAD has developed a chart that outlines the proposed funding levels for fiscal year (FY) 2024 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024) for NASADAD's priority programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the White Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Congress has yet to pass a final appropriations bill for FY 2024.



### Latest Action

On January 19th, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law another Continuing Resolution (CR), the [Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 \(P.L. 118-35\)](#), to extend funding through March 8th for the agencies under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, which houses NASADAD's priority programs. Congress will have until March 8th to pass a final appropriations bill to fund the government, or another CR to avoid a government shutdown.

The chart can be found on NASADAD's webpage, [here](#).

## Capitol Hill Happenings

### Bipartisan Group of Senators Send Letter to FDA Urging MOUD to be Included in List of Essential Medicines

On February 9th, a bipartisan group of senators, led by Senator Heinrich (D-NM), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, submitted a [letter](#) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the FDA to add medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), specifically buprenorphine and methadone, to FDA's [List of Essential Medicines](#). Senator Heinrich was joined by Senators Mike Braun (R-IN), Ed Markey (D-MA), Augus King (I-VT), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR), who called on the FDA to include MOUD in the List of Essential Medicines to make them more accessible in medical facilities across the country to more effectively treat patients with opioid use disorder (OUD). The FDA's List of Essential Medicines, created in 2020, is a list of medicines "...that are medically necessary to have available at all times in an amount adequate to serve patient needs and in the appropriate dosage forms." Adding MOUD to the List is intended to improve domestic production of these life-saving products and minimize potential shortages across the country.

Senator Heinrich's press release announcing the letter can be found [here](#).

## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Grants to Expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for [Grants to Expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts](#). The program is designed to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services within existing drug courts to provide treatment as an alternative to incarceration for individuals with SUD. Grantees are expected to develop a coordinated, multisystem approach to providing effective prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals involved with the treatment drug courts. Ultimately, the program aims to help those with a SUD involved with the criminal justice system "... improve abstinence from substance use, housing stability, employment status, social connectedness, health/behavioral/social consequences, and reduce criminal justice involvement."

SAMHSA will provide up to 61 awards of up to \$400,000 per award, per year for up to 5 years for total program funding of up to \$24,400,000. Applications are due April 1, 2024.

Additional details on eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#).

## **SAMHSA and ONC Launch the Behavioral Health Information Technology Initiative**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology \(ONC\)](#), recently announced the *Behavioral Health Information Technology Initiative*. The Initiative will be funded at \$20 million over the next three years and aims to advance health information technology (IT) in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care. Specifically, the new Initiative seeks to identify a set of mental health and SUD-specific data elements in coordination with the grantees of SAMHSA's Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant and Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) to improve the effectiveness and reduce the costs of data capture, use, and exchange for mental health and SUD providers. These elements will be coordinated via a new United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI+) domain for mental health and SUD providers. ONC will provide technical assistance to help collect data from grantees and implement the new USCDI+.

Additional information on the benefits of the new USCDI+ can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA's press release announcing the new initiative can be found [here](#).

## **NIH Announces National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week: March 18-24, 2024**



The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) recently announced the [2024 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® \(NDAFW\)](#) will be on March 18-24. NDAFW is an annual national health observance featuring scientists, students, educators, providers, and community partners to share facts on the science of substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) among youth. Participants are encouraged to design an event celebrating NDAFW and can register their event to be an official NDAFW event [here](#).

A map of official NDAFW events can be found [here](#).

## **NIH HEAL Initiative Produces New Scale to Measure Stigma Among Pregnant Women Who Use Opioids**

Through the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative, researchers from RTI International developed the [Prenatal Opioid Use Perceived Stigma \(POPS\) scale](#), a new scale to measure stigma among pregnant women who use opioids and/or have opioid use disorder (OUD) as part of the [Advancing Clinical Trials in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal \(ACT NOW\) Outcomes of Babies With Opioid Exposure Study](#). The POPS scale is designed to reveal stigma barriers to access to help pregnant women with OUD identify, locate, and receive adequate healthcare for both themselves and their infants. Using the scale, a study of 127 pregnant women who use

opioids found that pregnant women who use opioids faced more perceived stigma and were less likely to receive adequate prenatal care.

Additional details on the scale can be found [here](#).

NIH's press release announcing the scale can be found [here](#).

---

## Webinars to Watch

### **SAMHSA HHRC Webinar: Expanding Harm Reduction Through Increased Syringe Access**



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded [Homeless and Housing Resource Center \(HHRC\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Expanding Harm Reduction Through Increased Syringe Access](#). This no-cost webinar is on February 28, at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar will examine opportunities for health centers and other community-based organizations to expand harm reduction services in their communities, specifically by offering syringe access through direct service delivery. Participants will hear from the Cherokee Nation Harm Reduction Program and Migrant Health Center, Inc., who will provide insight on programmatic development and implementation strategies, as well as directly from consumers of syringe access programs to better understand the impact of those services.

Registration is required.

### **SAMHSA GAINS Center Webinar: Planning for the Future: Ensuring Sustainability for Drug Treatment Courts**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [Gather, Assess, Integrate, Network and Stimulate \(GAINS\) Center](#) is hosting a webinar on [Planning for the Future: Ensuring Sustainability for Drug Treatment Courts](#). This no-cost webinar is on February 29, at 1:30 pm ET. The webinar will examine how drug treatment courts can plan for long-term sustainability through a multifaceted approach, including models to structure and organize the program, strategies to increase support from partners and the community, and opportunities to secure ongoing funding.

Registration is required.

---

## We're Hiring!

### **NASADAD Hiring for Summer Public Policy Intern**

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for a Summer Public Policy Intern within the Public Policy Department. See the job listing and link to apply below:

#### **Summer Public Policy Internship**

NASADAD is now accepting applications for a paid internship position within the Department of Public Policy. Interns work directly to support the Executive Director and Public Policy Staff on legislative, regulatory, and other matters related to substance use disorders (SUD). This position offers an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to working with Congress, government agencies, and other stakeholders on issues pertaining to addiction.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Lacy Adams, Public Policy Analyst, at [ladams@nasadad.org](mailto:ladams@nasadad.org).

NASADAD | 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite M 250, Washington, DC 20006

[Unsubscribe ladams@nasadad.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by ladams@nasadad.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!