

February 29, 2024



D.C. Update: New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, New 988 "Reasons to Connect" Social Media Graphics and Language, CDC Study Examines Motivations for Drug and Alcohol Use in Minors, and More.

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Meet The Member

Rachel Nuss, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Wyoming

Rachel Nuss has over 10 years of experience working for the State of Wyoming, with seven of those years being involved in substance use prevention efforts. Rachel currently serves as the Community Prevention Unit Manager at the Wyoming Department of Health where she oversees the Substance Use and Tobacco Prevention Program as well as the Injury and Violence Prevention Program. One of the main activities that comes out of this unit is the Community Prevention Grant, which funds local communities to prevent substance use, tobacco, and suicide. Rachel also currently serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Wyoming, leading the State's prevention efforts.



Rachel has a Masters in Public Administration and a Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Wyoming and is currently finishing up a public health certificate. Rachel grew up in northern Wyoming and is happy to have the opportunity to improve her community through her position.

Around the Agencies

[SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for the [First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#) program. This grant program is designed to support first responders and members of other key community sectors on training, administering, and distributing naloxone and other Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved overdose reversal medications or devices. A focus of the program is on populations disproportionately impacted by overdose. Recipients are also expected to establish protocols and mechanisms for warm hand-off referrals to treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and other psychosocial support services, as well as provide education about fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and other substances associated with overdoses.



SAMHSA will provide up to 15 awards of \$300,000- \$800,000 per award, per year, for up to 4 years for total program funding of \$6,200,000. Applications are due April 15, 2024.

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

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act program can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Provider’s Clinical Support System - Universities

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced a new funding opportunity for the [Provider’s Clinical Support System - Universities](#) program. This grant program aims to expand substance use disorder (SUD) education to ensure that graduate-level healthcare students receive training on how to identify and treat SUD in mainstream healthcare upon graduation. Specifically, the program will provide funding to help “...develop and implement a comprehensive SUD curriculum framed in a chronic illness and recovery management model that addresses the core elements recommended by SAMHSA.” This curriculum will cover basic knowledge of strategies to identify, assess, intervene, and treat SUD, as well as address stigma and support recovery. Recipients are also required to develop a plan for integrating the SUD content into the general program curriculum.

SAMHSA will provide up to 18 awards of up to \$300,000 per award, per year for up to 3 years for total program funding of \$5,400,000. Applications are due April 15, 2024.

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

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Provider’s Clinical Support System - Universities program be found [here](#).

New 988 “Reasons to Connect” Social Media Graphics and Language

Last week, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the release of new 988 “Reasons to Connect” social media graphics and language within the [988 Partner Toolkit](#). The new social media resources highlight the various reasons to connect with the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) that are designed for use on social media to communicate the many reasons for people to connect with 988. The resources’ theme is “any reason is a good reason to reach out.” The following social media resources were added as part of the “Reasons to Connect” promotion:



- [Reasons to Connect Social Media Post](#)
- [Examples of Reasons to Connect Social Media Post](#)
- [Four Reasons to Connect Social Media Post](#)
- [Reasons to Connect: Video 2](#)

Additional resources on the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline can be found [here](#).

CDC Study Examines Motivations for Drug and Alcohol Use in Minors



Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a study in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on [*Characteristics of Alcohol, Marijuana, and Other Drug Use Among Persons Aged 13-18 Years Being Assessed for Substance Use Disorder Treatment – United States, 2014-2022*](#).

The study of adolescent drug use motivations among adolescents assessed for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment found that the most commonly reported reason for drug use is stress-related motivations. Specifically, 73% of adolescents that were polled reported that their primary motivation for using drugs was to "...feel more mellow, calm, or relaxed." The study is based on 15,693 Comprehensive Health Assessment for Teens (CHAT) ages 13 to 18 from January 2014 through September 2022 by the National Addictions Vigilance Intervention and Prevention Program. The most commonly reported reasons among adolescents for substance use were as follows:

- To feel mellow, calm, or relax (73%)
- To have fun or experiment (50%)
- To sleep better or to fall asleep (44%)
- To stop worrying about a problem or to forget bad memories (44%)
- To make something less boring (41%)
- To help with depression or anxiety (40%)

The study breaks these motivations down by substance type across alcohol, marijuana, and prescription and nonprescription drug use. The study also examines the persons with whom substances were used, including friends, partners, strangers, and alone.

Webinars to Watch

HRSA NTTAP Webinar: Evidence-Based Practices: Comprehensive Approach to Behavioral Health Care

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-supported [*National Training and Technical Assistance Partners \(NTTAPs\) Renaye James Healthcare Advisors*](#) is hosting a webinar on [*Evidence-Based Practices: Comprehensive Approach to Behavioral Health Care*](#) as part of NTTAP's Behavioral Health series. This no-cost webinar is on March 13, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar aims to help participants design a core training curriculum to reinforce the following skills among all employees, including frontline staff, management, and executive leadership:

- "Patient-centered care
- Trauma-informed care
- Motivational interviewing
- De-escalation"

[Registration](#) is required.



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