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PRESS RELEASE
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New Hampshire Awarded SAMHSA Grant for State Opioid Response

Concord, NH –The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pleased to announce that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded the first year budget for New Hampshire’s State Opioid Response (SOR) proposal. The SOR is a two-year grant program designed to address unmet treatment needs, reduce opioid overdose deaths and increase access to medication assisted treatment (MAT). The award for the first year is for \$22.98 million; the State expects to receive \$45.8 million over the two years.

“We are grateful to SAMHSA for this funding opportunity, which will allow New Hampshire to design a new streamlined system of prevention, treatment and recovery services,” said Governor Christopher T. Sununu. “Our current providers do an excellent job in their specific areas, and it’s time to integrate all of the services we offer statewide to create a locally based system of care that reaches every corner of the state, and this grant will allow us to do that.”

New Hampshire’s plan creates clear points of entry for any resident with an opioid use disorder (OUD) with help no more than an hour away from anyone seeking assistance. The proposal features a regional approach to addressing the crisis in 9 regions throughout the state. The State will expand MAT, peer recovery supports services, access to recovery housing, evidence-based prevention programs, workforce opportunities, and training and education for providers and people in recovery. Existing programs also will be expanded to increase services for pregnant women and new parents with OUD, children and families involved with child welfare and individuals in correctional institutions.

“We have a tremendous opportunity in front of us to create a system that is easily accessible, client-centered, and focused on services that will support long term recovery for our residents,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeffrey A. Meyers. “We look forward to working together with providers and stakeholders to bring critical support and services to those struggling with substance misuse wherever they live in New Hampshire.”

In anticipation of the funding, DHHS has issued and will be issuing requests for proposals to implement the plan. DHHS is requesting approval from the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee on Friday, September 21 to accept and expend the funding. For more information, and to view the grant proposal submitted to SAMHSA, please visit www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/sor.htm.

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