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**Subject:** SAMHSA to award nearly \$1 billion in new grants to address the nation's opioid epidemic

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Dear Colleague:

Today, our Department's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the funding authorized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act to support state efforts to prevent opioid misuse, treat opioid use disorder, and support recovery.

Please see the announcement below for additional information and find the FOA at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-17-014>

Best,

Emily Barson  
Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## SAMHSA to award nearly \$1 billion in new grants to address the nation's opioid epidemic

SAMHSA today announced the availability of new funding to combat the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic. The funds, made available through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants, will provide up to \$970 million to states and territories over the next two years, beginning in fiscal year 2017.

These grants will help address the opioid crisis by providing support to states for increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment needs, and reducing opioid-related overdose deaths. States and territories will be awarded funds through a formula based on unmet needs for opioid use disorder treatment and drug poisoning deaths.

These grants are the latest element in a series of initiatives the Obama Administration has undertaken to address this crisis. On December 13, 2016, the President signed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, which implements his Budget proposal to provide \$1 billion in new funding to combat the opioid crisis and overdose epidemic. Major parts of the Administration's effort include expanding community-based efforts to prevent drug use before it begins, empowering health care workers to intervene in dealing with patients at earlier stages of substance use disorder, expanding access to treatment for those who need it, supporting the millions of Americans in recovery, and pursuing targeted approaches to drug enforcement.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Opioid Initiative, which was launched in March 2015, is focused

on improving opioid prescribing practices, expanding access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder, and increasing the use of naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses. The initiative concentrates on evidence-based strategies that can have the most significant impact on the crisis.

The new funding also promotes the evidence-based public health approach outlined in the Surgeon General's recent report, *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*. The report stresses the importance of a full range of services that will be funded through these grants—including getting vital treatment to people dealing with substance use disorders and significantly reducing the number of substance use-related deaths.

For further information about SAMHSA and its programs to address the opioid epidemic please go to: <http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/about>.