

**Arizona Opioid State Targeted Response Grant**

**Targeted Efforts to Reduce Opioid Use Disorders and Opioid-Related Deaths**

The toll of the opioid epidemic has swept the nation. In 2015, over 33,000 people died nationwide from opioid-related overdoses. Arizona, like most states in the country, has witnessed the fall out of the opioid epidemic and the rising tide of opioid-related deaths. Between 2005 and 2015, the number of prescription (Rx) opioid-related deaths increased 43.9% in the state, and the number of heroin-related deaths increased a shocking 467.9%. There were 679 opioid-related deaths in Arizona in 2015 alone.

In an effort to combat the national opioid epidemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) has allocated a formulary grant for each state to implement activities over a two year period to reduce the number of individuals with Opioid Use Disorders (OUDs) and the number of opioid-related deaths. On May 1, 2017, Arizona received an award notice for \$24,343,406 over the course of two years to implement prevention and treatment activities for this targeted effort. AHCCCS, as the Single State Agency for Substance Abuse Treatment, will administer the grant and work with other state agencies, Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs), and contractors to implement the following activities:

**Administration:** *Increase use of data-driven decision-making.*

- Create an Opioid Monitoring Initiative for capturing, reporting and sharing opioid-related data.
- Develop a comprehensive needs and capacity assessment that identifies prevalence, related harms, existing OUD providers, existing funding and gaps in activities related to OUDs.
- Develop a state strategic plan to address the gaps in prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

**Prevention:** *Increase prevention activities to reduce OUDs and opioid-related deaths.*

- Provide Naloxone kits to law enforcement in Arizona (Arizona Department of Health Services, ADHS).

*Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family (GOYFF) Activities:*

- Purchase Rx drug drop boxes for Northeastern and Western Arizona and host community take back events.
- Conduct Rx Toolkit trainings and provide technical assistance for communities implementing the toolkit.
- Implement Wellness Initiative for Senior Education and Mental Health First Aid programs for Older Adults.
- Market GOYFF's Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Locator.
- Conduct Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment in Northern Arizona and in the Universities.

**Treatment:** *Improve access to, participation and retention in comprehensive Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services to treat OUD.*

- Educate providers, key stakeholders and the community on Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Increase peer support services to assist with MAT treatment navigation, retention and recovery success.
- Increase 24/7 access to care services for MAT through Centers of Excellence.
- Increase coordinated care post opioid-related events through hospital discharge and ED-Initiated Buprenorphine projects (ADHS and AHCCCS).
- Implement a law enforcement diversion and incarceration alternative project.
- Expand efforts to identify and align services for MAT eligible individuals being released from correctional settings.
- Provide recovery supports for post-partum mothers with OUDs by expanding nurse visits in the Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment program (Department of Child Safety).
- Expand residential treatment and recovery home services for individuals with OUD.