

## DHHS Applies For \$25 Million In Federal Grants To Fight Opioids

By Administrator

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The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has applied for \$25 million in federal funding to combat the opioid epidemic in North Carolina.

“The opioid epidemic ravages physical and mental health, holds people back from education and careers, and tears families and communities apart,” said Governor Roy. Cooper “We must do even more to fight the opioid crisis in North Carolina and these grants would help us make critical progress to prevent and treat opioid addiction and save lives.”

DHHS will apply for approximately \$22 million in federal funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s grant program. DHHS would use these dollars to provide opioid prevention services, medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services to at least 5,000 North Carolinians. This funding would also allow the state to enhance efforts to combat overdoses by purchasing additional naloxone, a life-saving overdose reversal drug.

DHHS will also seek nearly \$3 million in federal funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response. The department would use these funds to enhance the tracking and reporting of overdose-related data to enable state leaders and programs to better target and evaluate prevention strategies.

“These grants are important steps in fighting the opioid crisis,” said DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. “But they are only part of the solution. We also need sustainable funding to close the coverage gap and increase access to affordable health insurance. Addiction is a chronic disease and people need access to care beyond the life of these grants.”

North Carolina is putting previous federal grants to fight the opioid crisis to excellent use and wants to build on that success. In fiscal year 2017-18, North Carolina provided opioid use treatment to more than 5,700 individuals-- nearly four times the program’s first-year goal-- through federal funding awarded by the 21st Century Cures Act, State-Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants.

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