

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 Overdose Data to Action – Operation Helping Hand

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, and the 42 U.S.C. §§ 241A, 247B et seq., the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department) announces the availability of the following non-competitive subawards for the FFY19 Operation Helping Hand (OHH) grant program funded by the New Jersey Department of Health through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: FFY19 Overdose Data to Action grant program.

Under the FFY19 OHH grant, \$1,000,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to the 21 counties to establish or expand programs like Bergen County's model OHH in which law enforcement officers play an active role in identifying individuals with substance use disorders and—together with community partners—serve as a point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services. The OHH model may be adapted to meet each participating county's circumstances, but every participating county's program will involve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and mental health professionals to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction with treatment and/or recovery support services. However, funds from this award may not be used to cover the direct clinical care itself. Funds may be used to pay for the linkage of individuals to care through the

hiring of necessary law enforcement staff, patient navigators, and recovery specialists to coordinate and track the initiative.

Bergen County's model OHH began as a modern take on the "open air drug market sweep." Over five days, a team of law enforcement officers arrest individuals buying heroin--or, in some cases, other narcotics--at known open air drug markets in Paterson—focusing on regular drug users with a higher risk of overdose. When the users are brought to the police station or prosecutor's office for processing on drug charges, recovery specialists and mental health professionals are waiting to connect them with treatment and/or recovery support services. The charges are not dropped if the user accepts help, but every effort is made to place him or her on the path to recovery. Users are told that if they successfully complete treatment, that information will be provided to the sentencing court for its consideration. Anyone interested in treatment is promptly connected with appropriate inpatient or outpatient programs. Although the operation lasts about one week, it requires advance planning and coordination among public and private partners, including law enforcement and community agencies. Reserving beds so that the individuals may be directed to treatment immediately is a key component of the program. Recovery specialists follow up with individuals who do not immediately agree to treatment.

Counties may adapt the OHH model to meet their unique circumstances. For example, instead of arresting individuals who purchase drugs at a single open air drug market, counties may identify multiple locations for surveillance during their weeklong surge operations. Alternatively, counties may identify individuals at risk for drug overdoses using law enforcement data and other resources, and then send teams of law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and other healthcare

partners to meet with these individuals about recovery and treatment options--without making any arrests. Counties also may adapt the OHH model in a manner that expands on existing programs and/or resources, including but not limited to mobile addiction outreach vans. However, all OHH programs must use law enforcement encounters as the point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services.

Counties currently participating in OHH via the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 Governor Phil Murphy Budget – Operation Helping Hand Grant Program are encouraged to increase the frequency of their operations and/or incorporate and improve on their existing models. The base funding allocation for each County Prosecutor’s office is \$47,619. If not all County Prosecutors’ offices participate, participating County Prosecutors’ offices may be eligible to receive funding up to \$65,000 using a formula determined by the New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (“NJ CARES”).

The funding is for a 12-month period from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. However, an extension may be available for a subrecipient as it relates to unused federal funds remaining at the end of the grant period to cover allowable costs of that grant period if appropriate approvals are obtained.

Any county wishing to participate in the OHH program must notify NJ CARES, via e-mail at Alexis.Goldberger@law.njoag.gov no later than October 18, 2019. NJ CARES will then provide application and award packages to each county via e-mail, no later than October 25, 2019. The application and award packages are due back to the NJ CARES by November 22, 2019. One copy

of the application and award package must be submitted via e-mail to Alexis.Goldberger@law.njoag.gov.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis only and is contingent upon subrecipient award package submissions, compliance with grant conditions, and satisfactory performance of services. Additionally, subrecipients must comply with programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements for approval and/or reimbursement of costs incurred during the project period.

Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change. Subrecipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly dependent upon the availability to the Department of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue to such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set forth in a grant agreement.