

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 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 FFY22 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: Supplement to the FFY21 Overdose Data to Action grant program.

Under the FFY22 OHH grant, \$1,000,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to the 21 counties to establish new and/or expand or enhance programs 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 must involve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and public 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.

The OHH model originated in Bergen County, where law enforcement would offer to immediately connect opioid users who were arrested in operations at known drug hot spots to treatment and/or recovery services. There are now many different forms of the OHH model, and counties are encouraged to adapt the OHH model to meet their unique circumstances. For example, 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. Other counties have historically offered these connections to recovery and treatment options as a diversion alternative to traditional processing for drug charges through Municipal or Superior Court programs, presenting opportunities for individuals who are arrested to have their participation in treatment or recovery services considered towards any charges or sentencing recommendations. 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 and targeted outreach at drug hotspots, such as transit stations, motels, and homeless shelters. However, all OHH programs must use law enforcement encounters as the point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services.

Counties that have participated in previous OHH grant programs and/or are participating in the SFY2022 Governor Phil Murphy Budget OHH 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, the \$1,000,000 in funding will be divided among participating County Prosecutors' offices 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, 2022 through August 31, 2023. 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 levyk@njdcj.org no later than September 9, 2022. NJ CARES will then provide application and award packages to each county via e-mail, no later than September 16, 2022. The application and award packages are due back to the NJ CARES by October 28, 2022. One copy of the application and award package must be submitted via e-mail to levyk@njdcj.org.

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.