

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

FFY17 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program: Category 4b – Opioid Response Team Project

Take notice that in compliance with N.J.S.A. § 52:14-34.4, and 42 U.S.C. §§ 241A, 247B et seq., the Department of Law and Public Safety (“Department”) announces the availability and award of non-competitive subawards for the FFY17 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program: Category 4b – Opioid Response Team Project. This program is supported by the Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 Bureau of Justice Assistance, Pub. L. No. 115-31, 131 Stat. 135, 205.

Under the FFY17 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program: Category 4b – Opioid Response Team Project, \$749,999 in formula grant funding will be offered to the five identified local police departments to implement Opioid Response Teams, which will provide crisis intervention for opioid-addicted individuals at multiple entry points involving law enforcement. The purpose of the Opioid Response Team project includes but is not limited to: assisting localities in engaging and retaining individuals with opioid use disorders in treatment and recovery services; increasing the use of diversion and/or alternatives to incarceration; and reducing the incidence of overdose death. The plan will expand and enhance the State's Law Enforcement Assisted Addiction and Recovery Referral Program ("LEAARRP"), established as part of New Jersey P. L. 2016, c. 58, the county-based diversion programs.

Each Opioid Response Team will be expected to operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days

a week to assist individuals suffering from opioid abuse through crisis interventions. Team members will include local police, Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”), and Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates (“SARA”), and will be called upon to assist individuals with opioid use disorder either at the scene of an overdose or at the police station by providing them with support, information, and/or referrals to treatment and recovery programs. The team member who is the first point of contact with the individual with opioid use disorder will be responsible to activate the response. Specialized and multi-disciplinary training, which will provide understanding of de-escalation techniques, evidence preservation, and how to interact with individuals with opioid addiction issues, will be required and delivered to each team member. With a full running staff of a law enforcement officer and EMS member, the response team will need SARAs to be on call. During that time, he or she will be required to respond to the crises as needed. Efforts will be made to recruit bilingual counselors and employ translation services for the Opioid Response Team project. Each team will be overseen by a coordinator, who will be responsible for the recruitment, training, and coordination of recovery and treatment services. The coordinator will work with the Department, in conjunction with an academically-based consultant, in structuring and deploying the team, including best practices in the recruitment of SARAs and the training of team members.

As an additional enhancement to the project, participating police departments will be expected to engage in an outreach campaign aimed at diverting the most at-risk opioid addicted individuals in their communities into treatment before an overdose occurs. This prospective approach will seek to divert opioid addicted individuals into treatment, reduce overdose deaths, and reduce Naloxone deployments.

The Department has been designated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance as the responsible

agency for administering the grant funds for FFY17 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program: Category 4b – Opioid Response Team Project. To develop a plan for the grant funds, the Department, in conjunction with an academically-based consultant, established a multi-disciplinary, strategic planning committee (“Committee”) consisting of representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, courts, state corrections, and human services agencies. The Committee helped identify where the greatest need in the State is for Opioid Response Teams by devising a formula to fairly and strategically disburse funding to the most in-need and at-risk municipalities through objective criteria and a data-driven process, as required by Category 4a of the FFY17 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program. As the Opioid Response Teams become operational, the Committee will assist the Department in monitoring the Opioid Response Teams, detect gaps and effective ways to fill those gaps, and identify additional improvements to strengthen the operation and response of the Opioid Response Teams.

Five local police departments will act as subrecipients and implement Opioid Response Teams in their municipalities. Each subrecipient will receive \$149,999.80 to cover the costs associated with the formation of Opioid Response Teams. Costs may include, but are not limited to: hiring an Opioid Response Team Coordinator; paying for on-call recovery specialists; transportation expenses; and the production of informational palm cards and business cards in various languages depending on community need.

The following local police departments have been identified as subrecipients for the grant funds:

- (1) Newark City
- (2) Camden City
- (3) Paterson City
- (4) Trenton City
- (5) Toms River

The funding period is between October 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

Each identified subrecipient will be provided with an application and award package by the New Jersey Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (“NJ CARES”), via e-mail no later than August 19, 2019. Application and award packages are due to NJ CARES by September 19, 2019. One copy of the completed 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.