



Member Cheat Sheet – Opioids

Both Congress and the Trump administration have made addressing the opioid epidemic a priority. Below is an update on the latest activities underway in Washington, D.C.

In Congress, this year has been a full sprint to gather feedback on the opioid crisis through requests for information, hearings and meetings with stakeholders – all of which have culminated in legislation to address the problem. Both the Senate and House of Representatives have advanced bills out of committee, with the House last week approving a package of bills collectively known as [The SUPPORT \(Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment\) for Patients and Communities Act](#). Along with a few stand-alone bills, the House sent the package to the Senate, where the Senate will consider how their own opioids legislation matches up with the House. Of the almost 60 bills in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, there are a few that you may find of interest:

- **Behavioral Health:**
 - **Patient Consent:** A bill that CHIME has [supported](#) and added its name to in a [multi-stakeholder letter of support](#) would align 42 CFR Part II with HIPAA in order for clinicians to appropriately manage consent for patients with substance use disorder.
 - **EHR incentives:** A bill that promotes the testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology.
- **PDMPs:** A bill that will improve current federal support for state-run prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). It will also authorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve data collection and integration into clinical workflow.
- **EPCS:** Also included in the package was a bill to mandate electronic prescribing of part D controlled substances by 2021. CHIME co-signed [a letter](#) supporting it.
- **Telemedicine:** The Special Registration for Telemedicine Act clarifies telemedicine waivers and allows for the expansion of telemedicine in special emergency cases.
- **Access to SUD records:** Jessie's Law will ensure that, with the patient's explicit consent, substance use disorder (SUD) history will be displayed prominently within the patient's health records.

In addition to the legislation under consideration, previously appropriated funds totaling almost \$10 billion for fighting the opioid crisis have been distributed to federal agencies. Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have announced grants targeted at fighting the opioid epidemic.

HRSA

Rural Grants

HRSA has grant monies available to support rural communities to fight the opioid crisis in around [75 high-risk rural communities](#), through the [Rural Communities Opioid Response \(Planning\) \(RCORP\) initiative](#).

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There will be 75 grants available of up to \$200,000 each, as announced in their [press release](#). There is a broad group of eligible applicants from public to private, nonprofit and for-profit. HRSA is hosting a webinar from 1-2 p.m. ET June 28 to discuss these grants. Details can be found [here](#). The number for a playback is (888) 203-1112, passcode: 2758241. For more Information on how to apply for the rural grants from HRSA, you can visit the [grants section of their website](#) or take a look at the [notice of funding opportunity](#). **The deadline for applications is July 30, 2018.**

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Grants

HRSA also announced that \$350 million in supplemental funding has been made available for "[Expanding Access to Quality Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services \(SUD-MH\)](#)." The purpose of this funding is to expand access to quality integrated substance use disorder prevention and treatment services. A [press release](#) is available and all applications should be submitted through HRSA's Electronic Handbooks. HRSA held a [technical assistance webinar](#) on June 22 and said a recording will be available online soon. The webinar is specifically tailored to eligible health centers that choose to apply for the grants. If you have any questions, there are [instructions](#) available on the website. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. ET July 16** with awards being made in the fall.

SAMHSA

On April 18, SAMHSA [announced](#) a second round of Opioid State Targeted Response (STR) grant awards seeking to bend the curve of opioid addiction. There are 57 total grants amounting to \$485 million being awarded to states in September. This was created under the 21st Century CURES Act and you can seek more details [here](#). **Applications are due by August 13.** This new funding opportunity is expected to be awarded in September 2018. Other grants include:

- [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grant Program](#) - **Applications due June 29**
- [Targeted Capacity Expansion: Medication Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction](#) - **Applications due July 9**
- [Provider's Clinical Support System – Universities](#) - **Applications due July 25**

Additionally, within the next few months, SAMHSA will release details of a separate \$1 billion grant funding opportunity for states, territories and tribes hardest hit by the crisis.

If members have questions about the activity on Capitol Hill or the grants, we encourage you to [reach out](#) to our Washington, D.C. policy team. They can help answer your questions.

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