

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

July 27, 2018

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 48

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDER

WHEREAS, in 2016, 20.1 million Americans ages twelve and older suffered from substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, opioid use disorder, a related illness, is a significant public health crisis that is devastating many communities across the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 1,518 North Carolinians died of opioid overdoses and 4,175 opioid-related overdose cases resulted in emergency department visits; and

WHEREAS, from 1999-2016, substance misuse deaths in North Carolina increased by 350% and opioid-related overdose deaths increased by over 800%, resulting in over 12,000 opioid-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, first responders and employers across the state are feeling the negative effects of substance use disorders including strained resources and loss of productivity; and

WHEREAS, national estimates suggest that as many as 28% of uninsured individuals have a substance use disorder or other behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS, uninsured and underinsured North Carolinians need and deserve access to treatment to help combat opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, parental substance use was a contributing factor in 39% of children entering foster care throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, effective therapies exist to help individuals combat opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders so that they can maintain or regain employment and resume productive lives in their communities; and

WHEREAS, measures that address opioid addiction are in the State's economic and public health interests; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has adopted a comprehensive Opioid Action Plan to address the opioid crisis by coordinating state resources to reduce the oversupply of prescription opioids, reduce the diversion of prescription drugs and the flow of illicit drugs, increase community awareness and prevention, increase the availability of naloxone, expand treatment and recovery support, and measure the results and effectiveness of these strategies; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, North Carolina provided treatment to over 5,700 individuals with opioid use disorder through funding awarded by the 21st Century Cures Act, State-Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina may be eligible to receive an additional \$25 million per year to support efforts to combat opioid addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

SECTION 1. Application for Grant and Cooperative Agreement

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) shall seek approximately \$22 million in federal funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (“SAMHSA”) State Opioid Response Grants to support efforts to combat opioid addiction in North Carolina.

DHHS shall also seek approximately \$3 million in federal funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (“CDC”) Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response to strengthen efforts and extend funds to communities across the state.

SECTION 2. Use of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Proceeds


DHHS shall use funds that may be awarded under the SAMHSA Grant to provide opioid prevention services, medication-assisted treatment and recovery-support activities to at least 5,000 North Carolinians. The grant will also allow the state to enhance efforts to combat overdoses by purchasing additional amounts of naloxone, a life-saving overdose reversal drug.

DHHS shall use funds that may be awarded under the CDC Cooperative Agreement to enhance the accessibility of overdose-related data, which will enable state leaders and programs to better target and evaluate prevention strategies.

SECTION 3. Effect and Duration


This Executive Order shall be effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 27th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen.



Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:



Rodney S. Maddox
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

