



Doubling Down On New Jersey's Fight Against Drug Addiction

"If we give people the tools and support they need to overcome this disease – and if we choose to free people from the stigma of addiction, and recognize this as the public health challenge it truly is - we can help people to reclaim their lives. We can find the true measure of our compassion."

-Governor Christie, January 12, 2016

Since the start of his administration, Governor Christie has made changing the conversation on drug addiction and focusing on treatment for those struggling with addiction one of his top priorities. Today, the Governor is going even further and taking unprecedented steps to combat the addiction crisis and help even more people reclaim their lives:

- Announcing the opening of a fully dedicated substance use disorder treatment facility for prison inmates
- Increasing Medicaid and provider reimbursement rates for substance use treatment services
- Introducing the expansion of the Recovery Coaches program

New Jersey's First-Ever Dedicated, Licensed Treatment Facility To Revolutionize Drug Treatment In Prison

Governor Christie is calling for reforms to fundamentally change how New Jersey treats addiction behind prison walls – making those efforts smarter, more accessible and more effectively integrated with re-entry efforts to help people stay clean. The Governor has directed the Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services to implement the first-ever dedicated, licensed substance use disorder treatment program at Mid-State Correctional Facility, which is currently non-operational.

- **New Jersey's First Ever Dedicated And Licensed State Correctional Drug Treatment Facility.** Mid-State Correctional Facility will reopen as a drug treatment facility dedicated to treating addicts behind prison walls – a first-of-its-kind program in New Jersey.
- **Building On Successful Treatment And Recidivism Efforts.** This program and the historic shift it

represents is possible due to the success of New Jersey's recidivism and re-entry programs - long championed by Governor Christie - and the corresponding decline of the state's prison population.

- From 2011-2014 under the Christie Administration, crime fell 20% and the state's prison population declined by nearly 10%.
- Completion of a DHS-licensed treatment program will also allow inmates to be eligible for social services upon release, providing an important safety net for offenders transitioning back into the community.

The program is yet another way to reduce recidivism and helps all of our people to become productive members of society again.

Historic Financial Commitment To Extend Access To Care for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

The Governor is making a historic financial commitment to raise reimbursement rates and increase access to substance use and mental health treatment. Increased reimbursement rates will help improve critical services and provide more treatment capacity for those who need it most.

- **Bolstering Mental Health And Addiction Rates By More Than \$100 Million.** A combined state and federal investment in FY'17 will help to increase mental health and substance use disorder rates by more than \$100 million.
- **Reducing Emergency Room Burdens.** Not only will these reforms provide greater access to care in the community, they will also reduce the burden that hospital emergency departments face in treating these patients. When individuals seek treatment through the right services, they prevent other health complications, and thus, the need for more expensive treatment. By improving access to care in the community, rather than through Emergency Departments, the pressure on hospitals to serve these patients will be alleviated.

Expanding The Recovery Coaches Program To Get Help To Overdose Survivors Immediately Following A Reversal

Starting this month, as a direct result of the Facing Addiction Task Force's work, the "Recovery Coaches" program is launching in our five counties hardest hit by the addiction crisis. The "Recovery Coaches" program will reach and connect drug overdose survivors with treatment, counseling, and support services in the immediate aftermath of their overdose – a critical moment for successful intervention.

- **\$1.7 Million For Expansion Into Six Additional Counties.** Today, the Governor is announcing \$1.7 million in funding for the expansion of the Recovery Coach Program into six additional counties.

Recovery Coaches engage individuals reversed from an opioid overdose to provide non-clinical assistance, recovery supports and appropriate referrals for assessment and substance use disorder treatment.

This program puts support immediately in reach for victims at hospitals to reach overdose victims immediately after they are stabilized.

Building On New Jersey's Strong Record Of Combating Recidivism

New Jersey is widely recognized as a national leader in reducing incidents of recidivism and reducing its prison population:

- The state's recidivism rate has dropped from 48% at the turn of the century to approximately 32%.
- Since 1999, New Jersey's prison population has declined more than 29 percent.
- New Jersey's state-sentenced inmate population in county jails, roughly 1,500 before Governor Christie took office, is now below 200, which allows more offenders to begin the New Jersey Department of Correction's (NJDOC) highly regarded re-entry programming as soon as possible. (NJ Department of Corrections Press Release, 10/26/15)

New York University's Brennan Center for Justice: "Over the last decade and a half New Jersey has reduced its prison population by 26 percent, as violent and property crime declined by 30 and 31 percent, respectively. New Jersey safely downsized its prison population by enhancing the efficiency of its parole process and increasing flexibility in the sentencing of low-level drug offenders. *From 2011 to 2014, crime in New Jersey fell 20 percent while incarceration fell 9.5 percent.*" (Lauren-Brooke Eisen and Inimai Chettair, "The Reverse Mass Incarceration Act," Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, October 2015)

The Governor's Commitment To Reclaiming Lives Has Been A Top Priority Since The Earliest Days Of His Administration

Ushered In A Statewide Expansion Of Drug Court & Mandatory Treatment Capacity: Governor Christie signed landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a state-wide, mandatory drug court program. The law calls for a five-year phase in period that establishes drug court programs in all of New Jersey's 21 counties – a profound expansion from the previous administration under which non-mandatory drug court programs operated in just 3 counties.

- Governor Christie is further acting on his commitment by increasing funding by \$8.5 million for drug court expansion and treatment in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, providing additional funding to permit the Department of Human Services to expand treatment to approximately 1,000 clients in both inpatient and outpatient facilities and expand the capacity needed to continue drug court expansion.

Signed Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act Into Law: Governor Chris Christie signed the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act establishing a two-prong approach to help prevent drug overdose deaths in New Jersey. First, it provides legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim. Secondly, it eliminates negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations.

- In February 2015, Governor Christie signed an expansion of the Overdose Prevention Act, adding a provision to extend the immunity provisions of the law to first responders including police and EMTs who administer and dispense Narcan.

Statewide Expansion of Narcan Program To Save Lives From of Overdose: Governor Christie implemented a statewide program to help reduce the number of heroin-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims. Since April 2014, approximately 7,500 deployments of Narcan by law enforcement and EMS have helped lead to the first decline in overdose deaths in New Jersey in the last four years.

Ending The Stigma Through The Facing Addiction Task Force: Governor Christie and Pastor Joe A. Carter of Newark's New Hope Baptist Church hosted a summit to start a conversation and call to action on ending the stigma on drug addiction and treatment. The following month, Governor Christie created the Facing Addiction Task Force, a 12-member team of leaders and experts from inside and outside of government chaired by Pastor Joe Carter and co-chaired by former Governor

Jim McGreevey to fight addiction through treatment and prevention.

Expansion of Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP) to Include Interstate Data-Sharing: Governor Christie expanded the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program's (NJPMP) interstate data-sharing capabilities to connect with the Prescription Monitoring Program's in Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Virginia and Minnesota. In July 2015, Governor Christie signed bipartisan legislation to improve surveillance and broaden the use of the NJPMP by doctors and pharmacists, and implement new methods for preventing "doctor shopping" that occurs with prescription and opioid abuse.

One-Stop Access To Help Ex-Offenders Battling Drug Addiction: In his 2015 State of the State Address, Governor Christie announced the first initiative to be implemented under the Facing Addiction Task Force's guidance: A groundbreaking one-stop model for connecting comprehensive services to ex-offenders re-entering society. Based on the principle of Integrated Reintegration, the Governor announced a program designed to streamline services available to ex-offenders to ensure they receive the kind of support they need to reclaim their lives and eventually re-enter society.

- Through the program, The Reentry Corporation has worked to refer to or provide services to reentry clients including sober housing, substance use disorder treatment, employment services, help with an ID or driver's license, pro bono legal representation, and access to wrap-around social service programs such as Medicaid and food stamps. The New Jersey Reentry Corporation received initial funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and was then provided operational funding for Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Toms River. New sites are expected in 2016 in Newark, Paterson and Toms River.