

Governor Christie: Join Me In Doubling Down On Our State's Fight Against Drug Addiction

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Governor Christie: Join Me In Doubling Down On Our State's Fight...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c1Hi4KOozA&feature=youtu.be>

Transcript:

Governor Christie: When it comes to healthcare too, we're making some important investments that will change and save lives. Last month I called on this Legislature to join me in doubling down on our State's fight against drug addiction and the budget I submit today reflects that. We have a chance to help people beat this disease. We have a chance to reclaim the lives of thousands of our fellow New Jerseyans. In fact, 2015 saw the first decline in overdose deaths in four years. That's why we're making an historic investment of more than \$100 million in state and federal funds to extend access to care for mental health and substance abuse. By providing more competitive reimbursement rates for services and providers, we have a chance to dramatically increase access to treatment. This is the first significant Behavioral Health rate increase in more than a decade, and it's going to make a big difference by improving critical services, getting more people into treatment earlier, and reducing the size of the burden that currently falls on Emergency Rooms. With our highly successful Drug Court Program, we're going to continue investing to provide mandatory treatment to more first-time, non-violent drug offenders. My budget proposal includes funding of nearly \$64 million to both maintain and expand this program. For individuals with developmental disabilities, there will be an additional \$48.8 million to create community placement and services, continuing our commitment to what I believe is the most humane policy we can peruse regarding those with developmental disabilities, transitioning individuals out of institutions and into the community, where they get the opportunity to live full lives among their families, their friends, and their neighbors.

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