

Continuing Governor Christie's Commitment To Reclaiming Lives

The Recovery Coach Program Provides Critical Support To Help Survivors In The Immediate Aftermath Of An Overdose

"And one of the achievements that I'm proudest of. We've helped thousands of people whose lives have been devastated by drugs to get the help that they need. Instead of prosecuting a failed war on drugs—a war against our own citizens—we've classified drug addiction as the illness it truly is, and worked to treat and rehabilitate some of the most vulnerable at-risk members of our society.

- Governor Chris Christie, State of the State, January 12, 2016

In September 2015, as a direct result of the Facing Addiction Task Force's work, Governor Chris Christie announced the "Recovery Coaches" Program as another important step to getting help to overdose victims. The NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) began the contracting process to develop an Opioid Overdose Recovery Program that puts Recovery Coaches and Patient Navigators on the ground in hospitals to provide immediate treatment to individuals reversed from opioid overdoses in hospital emergency departments. The "Recovery Coaches" program reaches and connects drug overdose survivors with treatment, counseling, and support services in the immediate aftermath of their overdose – a critical moment for successful intervention.

The "Recovery Coaches" Program utilizes Recovery Specialists and Patient Navigators to engage individuals reversed from an opioid overdose to provide non-clinical assistance, recovery supports and appropriate referrals for assessment and substance use disorder treatment. Recovery Coaches are currently operating and serving those in need in Monmouth, Ocean, and Camden Counties. The program will soon be fully functioning in Essex and Passaic counties, as well. In his Fiscal Year 2017 budget address, Governor Christie announced an allocation of \$1.7 million in funding for the expansion of the Recovery Coach Program into six additional counties.

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 statewide, 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.

To date, nine vicinages (Ocean, Hudson, Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren, Passaic, Mercer, Atlantic/Cape May, Bergen, Burlington, and Monmouth) have implemented mandatory Drug Courts, with another three (Essex, Cumberland/Salem/Gloucester and Middlesex) slated for July 2016. The fiscal year 2017 budget recommends total funding of nearly **\$64 million** to support the Drug Court program.

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.

Expansion of the Overdose Prevention Act: 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 an 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, over 9,000 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 (NJMP) to Include Interstate Data-Sharing: Governor Christie expanded the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program's (NJMP) 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 NJMP by doctors and pharmacists, and implement new methods for preventing "doctor shopping" that occurs with prescription and opioid abuse.

Continuing The Fight Against Drug Addiction

In the fiscal year 2017 budget, Governor Christie continues to provide unprecedented leadership on this issue by taking concrete actions to build on this commitment to change the way society views drug addiction and the misconceptions about who it impacts, how it affects lives, and how we deal with it.

Historic Financial Investment Towards Expanding Mental Health And Substance Use Treatment

- **Historic Financial Commitment & Largest Rate Increase Ever.** A combined State and federal investment of over \$127 million in fiscal 2017 will increase mental health and substance use treatment rates and expand access to care.
 - A \$127 million increase in rates for mental health and substance use treatment providers includes a new State investment of \$20 million as well as an increase of \$107 million in federal funding generated from new and existing State dollars in the system.
 - The \$127 million investment into increasing reimbursement to providers through enhanced rates is comprised of **\$53 million** for mental health services and **\$74 million** towards substance use disorder services.

- Rates will vary by service, but overall the new rates are expected to increase reimbursement by about 20% and in some cases as much as 50%. This represents a significant reinvestment of state savings and federal funds, and the largest increase overall to this community in over a decade.
 - These increased reimbursement rates will help improve critical services and provide more treatment capacity for those who need it most.
- **Fiscal And Moral Responsibility.** This investment will help make sure that those in need get the appropriate treatment earlier and preserve state resources by preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.

Creating The State's First Ever Fully Dedicated Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility For Prison Inmates

- **Investing \$2 Million To Re-Open Mid-State Correctional Facility As A Dedicated Treatment Facility.** Continuing his commitment to help all individuals with substance use disorders, Governor Christie is re-opening Mid-State Correctional Facility in 2017 as an institution dedicated to drug treatment. This will 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. Governor Christie directed the Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services to implement the first-ever dedicated, licensed substance use treatment program at Mid-State Correctional Facility, which will be dedicated to treating addiction behind prison walls – a first-of-its-kind program in New Jersey. The new Mid-State Correctional Facility substance use treatment program will be licensed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).