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Governor Christie Announces Grants To County Jails To Fund Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Programs For Substance Use Disorder

Thursday, November 16, 2017 Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)



Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie announced today that the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) has awarded grants to county jails throughout the state to fund medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs for inmates with substance use disorder. The grants are part of a package of initiatives Governor Christie unveiled in September that commits \$200 million to expand the State's national model programs and services to continue to effectively address New Jersey's opioid and substance use crisis.

"The package of initiatives I announced earlier this fall are designed to mobilize resources of a number of state agencies and departments," said Governor Christie. "By increasing the availability of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in our prisons and county correctional facilities, we will be providing more access to treatment and saving more lives."

Ten grants totaling \$1.7 million were awarded to county correctional facilities to establish MAT programs or to enhance existing MAT services. The counties that are receiving grants are: Bergen (\$170,628), Burlington (\$200,000), Camden (\$200,000), Hudson (\$200,000), Middlesex (\$179,789), Passaic (\$200,000), Salem/Gloucester (\$200,000), Somerset (\$75,000), Union (\$200,000) and Warren (\$84,600).

"This grant funding is designed to promote clinical stability and effective recovery processes for inmates prior to release from incarceration," explained NJDOC Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan.

Applicant proposals were limited exclusively to the use of medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opiate substance use disorder.

According to a 2015 study, approximately one-third of opioid users pass through correctional facilities each year. Although inmates may practice abstinence while incarcerated, it is often unsustainable upon release. Introducing MAT prior to release from incarceration has been shown to improve the likelihood of recovery sustainability after an offender is released.

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