Christie Administration Announces CDC Grant Funding Totaling More than $7.6 Million to Combat Opioid Overdose Epidemic

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today announced The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) a $727,688 competitive grant to enhance efforts to curb the opioid crisis through a series of initiatives and the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) approximately $6.9 million to target prescription and opioid misuse.

“Today is International Overdose Awareness Day, a reminder that the disease of addiction is preventable through education and intervention,” said Governor Christie. “These funding grants are another important step in combating opioid misuse and abuse in New Jersey while strengthening our ability to positively impact the opioid crisis in our state by saving lives.”

Funding for DOH will enable the agency to enhance its data access and analysis; improve prevention planning, including implementing a statewide strategic plan; assess the impact of state-level policies on the opioid crisis; identify and engage communities most impacted by the effects of the opioid crisis; and maximize the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program’s public health surveillance potential.

The CDC’s Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention grant helps states combat ongoing prescription drug overdose challenges. The purpose is to provide state health departments with resources and support needed to advance interventions for preventing prescription drug overdoses.

Through 2019, CDC plans to give selected states annual awards between $750,000 and $1 million to advance prevention in four key areas: maximizing prescription drug monitoring programs; community, insurer or health systems interventions; policy evaluations and Rapid Response projects.

Through SAMHSA, DHS will receive a Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs five-year grant award for approximately $1.9 million to target prescription drug misuse. The program is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications and educate pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing to young adults.

This grant also will fund prescription drug abuse prevention activities and education to schools, communities, parents, prescribers, and their patients. SAMHSA will track reductions in opioid overdoses and the incorporation of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data into needs assessments and strategic plans as indicators of the program’s success. The cooperative agreement between DHS and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) calls for up to 25 awards of about $371,616 annually.

The reports developed from the DHS’ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) data analysis will be shared with other state agencies and with DMHAS’ Regional Prevention Coalitions to inform planning in local communities.

In addition, DHS is receiving $5 million to target the reduction of the number of prescription drug/opioid overdose related deaths and adverse events among 18 year olds and older. The grant will focus on training key community sectors on the prevention of prescription drug/opioid overdose related deaths and implementing prevention strategies, including the purchase and distribution of naloxone kits. A cooperative agreement between DHS and SAMHSA calls for up to 11 awards of $1 million annually.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held annually on August 31 that aims to raise awareness of overdoses and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends who have experienced death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdoses.

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**BILL SIGNINGS:**

S-20/A-20 (Sweeney, Beck/Downey, Houghtaling, Chiaravalloti, Wisniewski, Greenwald) – w/STATEMENT - Prohibits person whose driver's license is suspended for DWI from operating NJT train

S-166/A-3901 (Bateman, Doherty/Singleton, Zwicker, DiMaio) - Establishes Hunterdon-Somerset Flood Advisory Task Force

S-1155/A-2696 (Diegnan/Johnson) - Regulates autocycles as motorcycles

S-1266/ACS for A-415 (Vitale, Gill/Eustace, Gusciora, Quijano) – w/STATEMENT - Establishes permanent sterile syringe access program

S-1880/A-1419 (Turner/Johnson, Wimberly, Pinkin, Bramnick, Mukherji) - Imposes certain requirements on telephone service contracts for inmates in certain correctional facilities

SJR-68/AJR-110 (Sweeney, Ruiz/Quijano, Mazzeo, Caride, Vainieri Huttle) - Urges Congress to ask US DOE and US DOL to modify regulations regarding Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to protect individuals with disabilities

A-1794/S-1826 (Burzichelli, Singleton, Mukherji/Oroho) - Concerns calculation of net premiums on certain life insurance policies for purposes of certain DOBI assessments

A-1934/S-1307 (Coughlin, Johnson, Andrzejczak, Rumana, Wimberly/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - Exempts veterans’ organizations from nonprofit corporation annual report filing fee

A-2224/S-1002 (Peterson, Sumter, DiMaio, Benson/Holzapfel, Greenstein) - Establishes “Secondhand Valuables Transaction Reporting Task Force”

A-2789/S-1835 (Greenwald, Burzichelli, DeAngelo, Mukherji/Whelan, Bateman) - Allows use of rear view backup camera and parking sensors during road test

A-3434/S-2187 (Greenwald, Eustace/Gill) - Permits abandoned prescription medication to be re-dispensed up to one year after original preparation

A-3540/S-2310 (Holley, Schaer, Kennedy/Diegnan, Oroho) - Provides that certain corporations bidding for public contracts may submit federal Securities and Exchange Commission filings to comply with requirement to disclose certain interest holders; requires submission by limited liability companies

A-3682/S-2080 (Kennedy, Bramnick, Holley, Rible/Scutari) - Permits animal facilities to use artificial turf in outdoor enclosures

AJR-46/SJR-57 (Schaer, Eustace, Benson, Johnson, Pinkin/Singer, Gordon) - Creates the “New Jersey Biotechnology Task Force”

AJR-103/SJR-70 (Houghtaling, Downey, Mukherji/Madden, O'Toole) - Designates November of each year as “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month”

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**BILLS VETOED:**

S-972/A-1788 (Sweeney, O'Toole, Ruiz/Burzichelli, Giblin, Pintor Marin) –CONDITIONAL - Establishes Child Advocacy Center-Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board and certification program for child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams; appropriates $10 million

S-2361/A-3951 (Weinberg, Sarlo, Gordon/Vainieri Huttle, Lagana, Eustace, Caride, Mukherji, Schepisi) –CONDITIONAL - Authorizes certain county to establish county hospital authority; amends title of “Municipal Hospital Authority Law”

A-1877/S-1129 (Wimberly, Sumter, Jasey, Johnson/Rice, Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL - “Healthy Small Food Retailer Act”; provides funding to small food retailers to sell fresh and nutritious food

A-2576/S-1080 (Gusciora, Muoio, Caputo, Mukherji, Chiaravalloti, Houghtaling, Pintor Marin/Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Extends duration of urban enterprise zones for 10 additional years; specifies permissible use of funds

A-3744/S-2330 (McKeon, Vainieri Huttle, Caputo, Jasey, Downey/Codey, Vitale) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes law enforcement assisted addiction and recovery programs

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Press Contact:
Brian Murray
609-777-2600