

NEWS RELEASE



DHCS INVESTS FUNDS TO TRANSFORM MEDICAL PRACTICES TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) today made nearly \$3.4 million in grants available to help improve patient care in the areas of substance use disorder (SUD), opioid use disorder, and addiction. Organizations can apply for grants of up to \$70,000.

“This funding will help to improve access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment needs, and reduce opioid and stimulant-related overdose deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery resources,” said Jacey Cooper, State Medicaid Director and DHCS Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs. “These grants are an important component of DHCS’ holistic population health approach and behavioral health continuum to address substance and opioid use disorders, particularly among our most vulnerable Californians.”

The [Request for Application](#), issued by DHCS in partnership with the California Academy of Family Physicians, is for grants to implement the California Residency Program Collaborative, which is funded by State Opioid Response III dollars. The funds will be expended between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Eligible applicants include Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited residency programs that train physicians in emergency medicine, family medicine, general internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

The project aims to encourage California physician residency programs to increase the capacity to serve patients with a SUD, including stimulant use disorder and opioid use disorder. Applicants must include education, outreach, and treatment for patients experiencing SUD, with a particular focus on serving vulnerable populations, promoting harm reduction, addressing fentanyl, and increasing medication-assisted treatment services.

This program is part of DHCS’ broader efforts to treat SUD, collectively known as the [California Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) Expansion Project](#), which focuses on populations with limited MAT access, including rural areas and American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal communities.

In 2019, DHCS launched the [Choose Change California](#) statewide multi-media campaign to raise awareness that treatment for the disease of opioid addiction is effective, evidence-based, and available.

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