



News Release

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DHCS EXPANDING SERVICES TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS WITH NEW \$140 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has been awarded a new \$140 million grant to help fight opioid abuse in the state, part of an overall effort that will provide prevention and treatment services for an estimated 270,000 individuals.

The two-year State Opioid Response grant will support treatment, prevention activities and education campaigns that target populations and regions with the highest overdose rates. In 2017, 1,882 people died in California due to an opioid overdose. While the state's overdose death rate (4.49 per 100,000 people) is below the national average, there are a number of rural counties whose rates exceed the national average.

"These funds will help ensure that individuals receive the resources and assistance they need for a successful recovery," said DHCS Director Jennifer Kent.

The new efforts will build upon activities that began under a \$90 million, two-year federal grant awarded in 2017, including the California [Hub and Spoke System](#), [Tribal Medication Assisted Treatment Project](#) and [Emergency Department Bridge Program](#). The new funding will help to coordinate efforts in settings such as hospitals, county offices and criminal justice settings, so that referrals to Opioid Use Disorder services are given when necessary. Another goal of the grant is to help eliminate the stigma associated with addiction and the myths surrounding medication-assisted treatment.

Grant-related information will be posted on the DHCS [website](#).

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