

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

#### **Notice of Availability of Funds**

#### **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Opioid Public Health Crisis Response – Operation Helping Hand**

**Take notice** that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, and the 42 U.S.C. §§ 241A, 247B et seq., the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department) announces the availability of the following non-competitive subawards for the FFY18 Operation Helping Hand (OHH) grant program funded by the New Jersey Department of Health through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: FFY18 Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response grant program.

Under FFY18 OHH, \$1,000,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to the 21 counties to establish or expand programs like Bergen County's model Operation Helping Hand in which law enforcement officers play an active role in identifying individuals with substance use disorders and—together with community partners—serve as a point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services. The Operation Helping Hand model may be adapted to meet each participating county's circumstances, but every participating county's program will involve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and mental health professionals to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction with treatment and/or recovery support services. However, funds from this award may not be used to cover direct clinical care itself.

Bergen County’s model Operation Helping Hand began as a modern take on the “open air drug market sweep.” Over five days, a team of law enforcement officers would arrest individuals buying heroin – or, in some cases, other narcotics – at known open air drug markets in Paterson—focusing on regular drug users with a higher risk of overdose. When the users are brought to the police station or prosecutor’s office for processing on drug charges, recovery specialists and mental health professionals are waiting to connect them with treatment and/or recovery support services. The charges are not dropped if the user accepts help, but every effort is made to place him or her on the path to recovery. Users are told that if they successfully complete treatment, that information will be provided to the sentencing court for its consideration. Anyone interested in treatment is promptly connected with appropriate inpatient or outpatient programs. Although the operation lasts about one week, it requires advance planning and coordination among public and private partners, including law enforcement and community agencies. Reserving beds so that the individuals may be directed to treatment immediately is a key component of the program. Recovery specialists follow-up with individuals who do not immediately agree to treatment.

Counties may adapt the Operation Helping Hand model to meet their unique circumstances. For example, instead of arresting individuals who purchase drugs at a single open air drug market, counties may identify multiple locations for surveillance during their weeklong surge operations. Alternatively, counties may identify individuals at risk for drug overdoses using law enforcement data and other resources, and then send teams of law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and other healthcare partners to meet with these individuals about recovery and treatment options – without making any arrest. Counties also may adapt the Operation Helping Hand model in a manner that expands on existing programs and/or resources, including but not limited to mobile

addiction outreach vans. However, all Operation Helping Hand programs will use law enforcement encounters as the point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services.

In June 2018, Union, Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties joined Bergen County in a coordinated five-county Operation Helping Hand initiative. Counties that already have participated in Operation Helping Hand are encouraged to increase the frequency of these operations, incorporate and improve on their existing model, and share data to reduce the number of overdose-related deaths. The base funding allocation for each County Prosecutor's office is \$47,619. If not all County Prosecutors' offices participate, the remainder of the \$1,000,000 in funding will be divided among participating County Prosecutors' offices using a formula determined by NJ CARES.

The funding is for a 12-month period from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. There will be no extensions given for the use of the funding.

Any county wishing to participate in the OHH program must notify the OAG Consolidated Grants Management Office, via e-mail at [cgmo@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:cgmo@lps.state.nj.us) no later than October 31, 2018. The OAG will then provide award packages to each county via e-mail, no later than November 2, 2018.

Award packages are due to the OAG by November 30, 2018. One copy of the award package must be submitted via e-mail to [cgmo@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:cgmo@lps.state.nj.us). Fully executed award packages will be sent to the counties by December 14, 2018.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis only and is contingent upon subrecipient award package submissions, compliance with grant conditions, and satisfactory performance of services.

Additionally, subrecipients must comply with programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements for approval and/or reimbursement of costs incurred during the project period.

Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change. Subrecipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly dependent upon the availability to the Department of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue to such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set forth in a grant agreement.