



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



Sentator Leahy, SAMHSA and Vermont Department of Health Announce \$3 Million in Federal Funding to Expand Opioid Treatment in Vermont



For Immediate Release: August 7, 2015

Media Contact:

David Carle (Leahy): 202-224-3693

Sentator Leahy, SAMHSA and Vermont Department of Health Announce \$3 Million in Federal Funding to Expand Opioid Treatment in Vermont

BURLINGTON, VT – Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) joined federal and state officials and medical providers Friday to announce \$3 million in federal funding (\$1 million a year over three years) that will enable the state to expand treatment options for opioid addiction in Rutland, Addison, Chittenden and Franklin counties.

The grant was made possible through a new Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding program that Leahy created after hearing testimony at last year's Senate Judiciary Field Hearing in Rutland, which he chaired. The hearing examined community responses to Vermont's heroin and opioid epidemic and highlighted the need for more treatment options. Leahy is the most senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Vermont is one of 11 states that will receive the SAMHSA funding to support Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs for opioid addiction. Kathryn Power, SAMHSA's Region 1 Administrator, joined Leahy for the announcement at the Vermont Department of Health.

Leahy said, "We know the demand for treatment of opioid abuse has increased dramatically in recent years, and Vermont is certainly not alone in this challenge. Continuing to provide the resources and support for treatment and recovery is among my highest priorities."

The grant will expand access and treatment options to MAT programs in the designated counties, serving those identified as high-risk. In December 2010, there were 594 Vermonters receiving MAT treatment services through the state's "Hub and Spoke" delivery system. This number rose to over 2,500 by December 2014, according to the Vermont Department of Health.

"Heroin use and overdoses, along with prescription opioid abuse, pose a grave public health risk. Expanding medication-assisted treatment programs can have an enormous positive public health impact. Programs like this show the commitment of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to reducing heroin-related overdose, death, and dependence in communities across the country," said SAMHSA's Kathryn Power.

Vermont Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD, said: "We've come a long way in building our capacity to offer medication-assisted therapy and recovery support for Vermonters who are struggling with addiction. This grant comes at a time when we really need more resources to expand and enhance our medical and psychosocial supports to the people and areas of greatest need."

For health news, alerts and information - visit healthvermont.gov

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

####

Vermont Department of Health | 108 Cherry Street | Burlington, VT 05402
Voice: 802-863-7200 | In Vermont 800-464-4343 | Fax: 802-865-7754 | TTY/TDD: Dial 711 first
Health Care Provider Infectious Disease Reporting: 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374

