

SUPPORT Act Section 1003 to Increase Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider Capacity: Virginia Medicaid Proposed Use of Funds for Grant Activities

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services is excited to announce the receipt of \$4.8 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an 18-month planning grant to address substance use disorder (SUD) treatment need. This grant will advance the initiatives of Governor Northam through a focus on pregnant and parenting and justice-involved members with SUD. The grant will comprise of three components: a needs assessment, a strengths-based assessment, and activities to support SUD treatment infrastructure. The needs assessment will gather information on Medicaid members with SUD, provider capacity, gaps in treatment, and barriers to SUD treatment and other related services (Hepatitis C treatment, HIV treatment, and access to naloxone). The strengths-based (“Brightspot”) assessment will determine communities with positive health indicators regarding SUD treatment to understand what community-level supports promote positive health outcomes among members with SUD. The final goal is to support state infrastructure to expand provider capacity and access to treatment through training and providing technical assistance to potential and current addiction treatment providers, expanding medication assisted treatment and peer recovery support specialist availability, and developing procedures around effective referral practices and linkages to community-based care.

Needs Assessment

- Solicit input from members, providers, and other stakeholders
- Expand existing analyses to include target populations: pregnant/postpartum members and justice-involved members
- Assess the capacity, qualifications, and willingness of Medicaid-enrolled providers
- Assess barriers to SUD treatment-related services such as Hepatitis C treatment, HIV treatment, and naloxone access
- Policy analysis on compliance with federal policy

Brightspot Assessment

- Strengths-based approach to understanding SUD treatment in Virginia
- Learn from communities that are ‘doing it right’
- Identify positive assets within communities with positive health outcomes around SUD and treatment access

Development of State Infrastructure to Improve Provider Capacity

- Recruit and train providers to offer SUD treatment services
- Implement emergency department peer recovery programs
- Provide training and technical assistance on a range of topics (telemedicine, harm reduction, HCV treatment, peer recovery supports) to providers
- Support Federally Qualified Health Centers in becoming Preferred Office-Based Opioid Treatment programs
- Develop and implement a re-entry initiative