

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 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 SFY25 Operation Helping Hand (OHH) Grant Program funded by the State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Under SFY25 OHH, \$2,000,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to the 21 counties to establish or expand programs 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 OHH 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 other addiction professionals to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction with treatment and/or recovery support services.

The OHH model originated in Bergen County, where law enforcement would offer to immediately connect individuals who have a substance use disorder who were arrested in operations at known drug hot spots to treatment and/or recovery services. Now that OHH has expanded to all 21 counties in New Jersey, there are many different forms of the OHH model,

and counties are encouraged to adapt the OHH model to meet their unique circumstances. For example, counties may identify individuals at-risk for drug overdoses using law enforcement data, including New Jersey State Police's At-Risk Matrix Delivery Report, and other resources, like targeted surveillance, and then send teams of law enforcement officers and recovery specialists to meet with these individuals about recovery and treatment options at their home or the site of the opioid incident—without making any arrests. Other counties have historically offered these connections to recovery and treatment options as a diversion alternative to traditional processing for drug charges, presenting opportunities for individuals who are arrested to have their participation in treatment or recovery services considered towards any charges or sentencing recommendations. Counties also may adapt the OHH model in a manner that expands on existing programs and/or resources, including but not limited to mobile addiction outreach vans and Municipal Court programs that offer Municipal Court defendants who are not eligible for Recovery Court the chance to be connected to treatment or recovery services. However, all OHH programs must use law enforcement encounters as the point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services.

Counties are encouraged to increase the frequency of these operations, incorporate and improve on their existing models, and share data to reduce the number of overdose-related deaths. The base funding allocation for each County Prosecutor's office is \$95,238.09. If not all County Prosecutors' offices participate, the \$2,000,000 in funding will be divided among participating County Prosecutors' offices using a formula determined by the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR).

The funding is for a 12-month period from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

Any county wishing to participate in the OHH program must notify OACR, via e-mail at Roxanne.Fattori@law.njoag.gov no later than July 30, 2024, by 12pm. OACR will then provide application and award packages to each county via e-mail, no later than August 2, 2024. The application and award packages are due back to the OACR by September 12, 2024. One copy of the application and award package must be submitted via e-mail to Roxanne.Fattori@law.njoag.gov.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis only and is contingent upon subrecipient award package submissions, compliance with grant conditions and approved deliverables, and satisfactory performance of services. Allowable costs for the grant funds include but are not limited to: overtime or comp time for law enforcement officers engaging in OHH activities; hiring staff, patient navigators, and recovery specialists to coordinate the initiative, track the participants, provide transportation, and make follow-up calls to those individuals who do not want to participate at the onset of the program; necessary equipment, materials, and supplies, including personal protective equipment, sanitizing wipes, and food and beverages, pre-paid phones, and laptops for individuals being connected to care; mobile van outfitting expenses for mobile van operations; transportation expenses; refreshments and giveaways for participants engaged in outreach events; training; educational outreach efforts that promote the program; and purchasing harm reduction products for community distribution, such as fentanyl test strips and Rx Disposal bags. 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.