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Louisiana Primary Care Association Receives Grant for Rural Opioid Response

As announced yesterday by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), LPCA will receive \$200,000 in grant funding to support rural communities fighting the opioid epidemic.

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) has been selected to receive \$200,000 in grant funding to support Community Health Centers in the treatment and prevention of opioid abuse in rural communities. LPCA has been selected as one of 120 grant recipients to receive funding as part of HRSA’s Rural Communities Opioid Response (RCORP) planning grant process.

According to HRSA, more than 130 people a day die from opioid-related drug overdoses. While communities across the nation struggle to combat this epidemic, rural populations have been shown to be especially vulnerable. Economic hardship, poverty, lack of transportation, the stigma of addiction, provider shortages, and a need for additional resources have all contributed to a rise in opioid use in rural communities. Recognizing this growing problem, HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has worked to support its grantees with resources, technical assistance, and training to integrate behavioral health care services into practice settings and communities.

Recipients across 40 states will receive \$200,000 for one year to formalize partnerships with local stakeholders, conduct needs assessments, and develop plans to implement and sustain substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), prevention, treatment, and recovery interventions.

LPCA will use these funds to provide leadership and technical assistance to five rural Community Health Centers. This consortium will develop and plan the roll out of protocols that result in increased access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services in the rural communities at the highest risk of substance abuse disorder. As per the grant award, LPCA will build upon the following goals:

- Reduce the occurrence of new and at-risk users.
- Strategically place and distribute overdose reversing devices such as naloxone nasal spray and syringe programs.
- Implement or expand access to evidenced-based practices for opioid addiction treatment.
- Increase treatment services provided to individuals with substance use disorders.
- Expand peer recovery and treatment options that assist individuals start and stay in recovery.

“This funding will be of great benefit to our rural Community Health Centers,” said Gerrelda Davis, LPCA Executive Director. “Our members have taken a leading role in combating the effects of the opioid epidemic in Louisiana.”

While this funding is geared toward capacity building and outreach in rural communities, LPCA will share lessons learned and best practices with Community Health Centers serving all populations.

“Too often we are focused on the numbers and statistics associated with the opioid epidemic, but every one of those numbers affected is someone’s mother, father, child, or friend,” said Ruth Johnson, LPCA’s Director of Health Center Policy & Governmental Affairs. “It will take the work of stakeholders from across the community to solve this problem. I am proud that Community Health Centers are recognized as part of the solution.”

[Learn more about this grant award and see the list of recipients.](#)

About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 34 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers (and 2 Look-Alikes) across Louisiana that serve over 426,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit www.LPCA.net.

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