

Vermont Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant

CDC titled this grant opportunity: *Prescription Drug Overdose: Prevention for States* (Short Title: PFS)

Length of grant: 4 Years – 10/1/2015 – 9/30/2019

Description of the grant: Through this grant, the Vermont Department of Health will expand the prescription drug overdose prevention efforts in collaboration with multiple stakeholders on a statewide basis. The goals of the grant align with, but do not overlap, the statewide focus on opioid prevention, intervention, and treatment. The goals of this approach are to decrease opioid and heroin fatalities, decrease opioid overdose emergency department visits, increase access to treatment, and decrease non-medical use of pain relievers. This will be accomplished through improved features of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS), training and technical assistance for medical professionals, improved communication with prescribers around evidence-based prescribing practices and alternatives to narcotics for treating chronic pain, expanded surveillance capacity, and a better understanding of the views of those abusing prescription drugs and heroin.

Sustainability: Current staff and prescribers will be able to use the materials and systems put in place with grant resources because the activities associated with this grant are training, development of improved reporting, and enhancements to the VPMS. The evaluation component of the grant will also inform strategic direction on opioid overdose prevention.

Measurement: A comprehensive evaluation plan, with measures associated with each grant activity, was submitted with the application. Long term, the primary measure used to assess the impact of the grant will be the rates of opioid overdose emergency department visits and overdose deaths in Vermont.

Collaborating Entities: The Vermont Department of Health will convene an advisory group of stakeholders, and partner with the Department of Vermont Health Access Blueprint for Health and the University of Vermont, Office of Primary Care to accomplish these goals.

Who will be getting grants/contracts/MOUs:

Department of Vermont Health Access
Appriss (VPMS Vendor)
Evaluation Project – St. Ann’s Shrine

University of Vermont Office of Primary Care
Marketing/Research – to be determined

Staffing:

To be hired specifically for this grant to do new work:

- Substance Abuse Program Manager (1 FTE): To be hired; primary manager of the grant activities.
- Chronic Disease Information Director (0.5 FTE): To be hired; develop and oversee the market research and media plans to support the grant.

- Public Health Analyst II (1 FTE): To be hired; support data collection and analysis needs.

New source of funds to support existing staff:

- Public Health Analyst III (0.5 FTE): Shayla Livingston, Master of Public Health; evaluation of the grant.
- Program Technician II (0.25 FTE): Mike Beyna; monitor pharmacy compliance, perform data cleaning and formatting.
- Administrative Assistant B (0.5 FTE): Erin Devost, Bachelors of Science; provides administrative support to team members

November 2015