



NYSAC  
NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2017

# Budget Priority

## THE HEROIN AND OPIOID ABUSE CRISIS

### PROBLEM

Communities across the nation and New York State are seeing a dramatic increase in heroin and opioid abuse. Between 2005-2014 heroin treatment admissions among upstate New York residents increased by 115% and admissions on Long Island increased by 116%, according to the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. Heroin and opioid abuse and addiction does not discriminate. It can happen in any household, in any family, in any neighborhood, and in any community. The illegal use, addiction, and abuse of heroin and opioids impacts many areas of county government, including public safety, public health, mental health, and corrections.

### 2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Executive Budget proposal includes a \$30 million increase over 2016/17 funding, for a total of \$200 million to combat the heroin and opioid abuse crisis. This funding will be used to add new residential treatment beds, open additional Opioid Treatment Program slots, increase Family Support Navigators and Peer Engagement programs, and provide additional supports and services to those struggling with addiction.

Specifically, the funding will enable OASAS to implement initiatives to:

- Add 80 New Residential Treatment Beds,
- Open 600 Additional Opioid Treatment Program Slots,
- Fund 10 New Regional Community Coalitions,
- Add Another 10 Family Support Navigator Programs,
- Fund 10 Peer Engagement Programs Statewide,
- Fund 8 New Adolescent Clubhouses Statewide,
- Add 5 New Recovery Community and Outreach Centers,
- Fund 10 24/7 Urgent Access Centers; and
- Develop a Recovery High Schools Pilot Program.

### 2017 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

*The Assembly's Budget* provides an All Funds appropriation of \$738.54 million for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), an increase of \$45.2 million over the Executive.

The Assembly also provides \$30 million to support an expansion of heroin and opiate related programs, including treatment, recovery, and peer support services. This investment will bring total spending in the Assembly proposal on heroin and opiate services to \$243.48 million. The Assembly also restores \$2 million to fund Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists (SAPIS) in New York City through the Department of Education.

*The Senate's Budget* concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$121 million for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services through State Operations. The Senate also concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$504 million through Aid to Localities, with the following modifications.

- Provide \$2.7 million in funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery services
- Require quarterly reports on the implementation of programs and services created in Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018.

*The Assembly's Budget* rejects the Executive proposal to authorize BOCES to establish two recovery high schools. *The Senate's Budget* modifies the Executive recommendation for Recovery High Schools for students with a diagnosed substance abuse disorder by increasing the number from two to three.

### COUNTY SOLUTION

Counties support the Executive Budget proposal.

*For more information on the county position regarding this issue, visit [www.nysac.org/health](http://www.nysac.org/health) or call 518-465-1473 to speak to Jill Luther, NYSAC Program Administrator.*