

Four NC Non-Profits Get Million Dollar Grants To Fight Drug Abuse

By Administrator

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Four North Carolina based non-profits received \$1 Million grants each from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fight substance abuse in their respective communities.

The organizations are: North Carolina Healthcare Quality Alliance, Inc. of Raleigh, Robeson Health Care Corporation of Pembroke, United Way of Rutherford County, Inc. of Forest City, Wilson County Substance Abuse Coalition of Wilson.

“President Trump has focused on expanding access to treatment for Americans with substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder, and that commitment continues during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “The pandemic has created particular stresses for many Americans struggling with substance use disorders, and these HRSA awards will help strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery services, especially in rural America, at this difficult time.”

HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy awarded \$4,000,000 to four recipients serving North Carolina residents as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation (RCORP-Implementation) Each RCORP-Implementation grant recipient will use the funding to enhance and expand service delivery for SUD and OUD in rural communities. Awardees will work with rural communities to implement a set of core SUD and OUD prevention, treatment and recovery activities grounded in evidence-based or promising practice models which can be tailored to communities’ unique needs. Nationally, \$89 million was awarded to 89 rural organizations across 38 states.

In addition to the RCORP-Implementation investments, HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce awarded nearly \$12.5 million to 28 organizations to expand access to behavioral health services for families affected by opioids and other substance use disorders. North Carolina received \$384,150. The Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program (OIFSP) aims to increase the number of training opportunities for behavioral health paraprofessionals working with families, and provides tuition assistance for trainees. Today’s awardees will recruit and train paraprofessionals to work with youth, including in high-need rural areas across the United States.

“These RCORP-Implementation grants are an essential part of HRSA’s overall efforts in

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helping to combat the opioid epidemic in the rural areas of our country,” said HRSA Administrator Tom Engels. “In addition, behavioral health paraprofessionals play a critical role in taking care of youth and families struggling with substance use disorder and opioid use disorder. This HRSA funding gives trainees the chance to learn in the communities and with the families that most urgently need their services.”