



ASAP 2017/2018 BUDGET/POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

The heroin and prescription drug addiction epidemic continues to worsen in communities across New York State. The number of families who have experienced a death because of overdose rose to record levels in 2016 and continues to rise. Addiction and overdoses related to heroin and prescription opioids are New York State's number one public health problem. It is unacceptable that New York treatment programs have waiting lists and that the State's SUD workforce has dwindled when it should be strengthened. More must be done. **We must do more.**

People at risk or suffering from substance use disorder (SUD) need access to quality care and supports that they need to become and remain well. The SUD prevention, treatment and recovery service infrastructure must be strong. **However, the addiction service field has nowhere near the infrastructure and capacity to help the many New Yorkers who are currently unserved.** The addiction service field faces a serious shortage of workers, an aging workforce, and non-competitive salaries. Without a renewed investment in the SUD service infrastructure, there will not be adequate capacity for children, youth, and adults with substance use disorder services to receive the life-saving prevention, treatment and recovery care and supports they need.

PREVENTION

➤ *We recommend adding \$20 million to the SUD prevention workforce to ensure full staffing of all prevention programs by filling vacancies, adequately supporting retention efforts for existing staff, and adding new positions where demand for prevention exceeds local resources.*

TREATMENT

➤ *We recommend adding \$5.25 million to the DOH budget to adjust APG reimbursement rates for treatment. Revenue from a 5% rate increase would provide the additional reimbursement necessary to cover the cost of salary and personnel adjustments to help retain staff needed to combat the heroin/prescription opioid epidemic.*

➤ *We recommend using \$30 million from the Substance Abuse Services Fund (Asset Forfeiture funding). This funding to support a workforce initiative offering student loan forgiveness; scholarships/tuition reimbursement for training, education, and certification; and salary/hiring incentives to help attract and retain staff to address the heroin epidemic. (Because these funds already reside in the Chemical Dependence Service Fund, this would require **no new revenue**)*

RECOVERY

➤ *We recommend that support be provided to the New York Certification Board for training, testing, and the application process for persons wanting to become Certified Addiction Recovery Coaches, Certified Recovery Peer Advocates, and Certified Recovery Peer Advocate Supervisors. The total cost for training, testing, and certifying 1000 peers will be \$200,000.*

➤ *We recommend that \$250,000 be provided to the New York Certification Board to establish employment preparation, employer-employee matching services, and employment support services to build and support a peer workforce for recovery centers, club houses, and other recovery oriented service environments*

➤ *We recommend the creation of two Family Resource Center pilot projects using parent and family run organizations to provide information, referral, and support services to families impacted by overdose and addiction. The total cost for pilots proposed for Buffalo and Long Island would be \$750,000.*

➤ *We recommend that \$3.5 million be provided for start-up funding for 6 additional recovery centers and 4 club houses in underserved communities and communities of color.*

**New York Association of
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- *We recommend that we support consumer/peer networks whose purpose is to create recovery supports for persons in medication assisted recovery. The total cost for consumer/peer networks will be \$500,000.*

HEALTH INSURANCE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- *We recommend making the state's health benefit package available to SUD service providers so that savings can be created and reinvested to address the heroin/prescription opioid crisis. SUD service providers have seen dramatic increases in the cost of their health insurance and other employee benefits. The crippling impact of these increases has increased the burden on employees (high deductibles)*

HEALTH CARE FACILITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

- *We recommend that the proposed 2017-18 budget includes \$500 million for this program, an increase of \$300 million. None of the increase is proposed for community-based organizations, which would receive the same allocation as last year, \$30 million. ASAP recommends that \$125M of the proposed funds should be designated for community-based organizations*

The initiatives above would help to strengthen the workforce and allocate resources in a manner that benefits New York State's comprehensive continuum of substance use disorders prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

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