



New Grant Opportunities in the Opioid Package

October 15, 2018

Opioid Package

Click [here](#) for the final bill and [here](#) for the Committee summary.

Section 1003 - Demonstration project to increase substance use provider capacity under the Medicaid program. This provision requires CMS to carry out a demonstration project to provide an enhanced federal matching rate for state Medicaid expenditures related to the expansion of substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. The demonstration project would allow for at least ten states to receive planning grants while five states would be selected for the enhanced federal matching rate portion of the project.

Section 1009. Medicaid substance use disorder treatment via telehealth. This provision directs CMS to issue guidance to states on options for providing services via telehealth that address substance use disorders under Medicaid. Requires guidance to cover state options for federal reimbursement for substance use disorder services and treatment using telehealth including, services addressing high-risk individuals, provider education through a hub-and-spoke model, and options for providing telehealth services to students in school-based health centers. This section also directs GAO to evaluate children's access to Medicaid services to treat substance use disorders, including options to improve access through telehealth. Additionally, it directs CMS to issue a report to Congress identifying best practices and potential solutions to barriers to furnishing services to children via telehealth to compare services delivered via telehealth to in-person.

Section 2001. Expanding the use of telehealth services for the treatment of opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders. This provision expands the use of telehealth services by eliminating certain statutory originating site requirements for telehealth services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries for the treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders, beginning July 1, 2019. It would allow payment for those services furnished via telehealth at originating sites, including a beneficiary's home, regardless of geographic location. A separate facility fee would not be provided if the originating site is the beneficiary's home.

Section 3203. Grants to enhance access to substance use disorder treatment. This provision authorizes grants to support the development of curriculum that will help health care practitioners obtain a waiver to prescribe medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Section 3232. Regulations relating to special registration for telemedicine. Federal law permits the Attorney General to issue a special registration to health care providers to prescribe

controlled substances via telemedicine in legitimate emergency situations, such as a lack of access to an in-person specialist. Unfortunately, the waiver process has never been implemented through regulation, and some patients do not have the emergency access they need to treatment. This provision directs the Attorney General, with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue final regulations within one year of enactment.

Section 6052. Grants to provide technical assistance to outlier prescribers of opioids. This provision provides grants to eligible entities to provide outreach and education to outlier prescribers of opioids to reduce the amount of opioid prescriptions prescribed. This section makes available \$75 million from the Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for the purpose of such education.

Section 6083. Expanding access under the Medicare program to addiction treatment in Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics. This provision provides grants to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to help offset the cost of training providers to dispense medications for treatment of opioid use disorder.

Section 7073. Programs for health care workforce. This provision improves programs that support education and training in pain care by requiring grant recipients to develop comprehensive education and training plans that include information on the dangers of opioid abuse, early warning signs of opioid use disorders, safe disposal options, and other innovative deactivation mechanisms. This section also requires pain care education and training grantees to include alternatives to opioid pain treatment, such as non-addictive and non-opioid pain treatments, and non-pharmacologic medical products. In addition, this provision updates mental and behavioral health education and training grants to support trauma-informed care.

Section 7111. Information from national mental health and substance use policy laboratory. This provision directs SAMHSA to provide information for entities applying for grants or cooperative agreements from SAMHSA, including to encourage the implementation and replication of evidence based practices.