

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Tribes in North Dakota receive grants for opioid treatment and recovery

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Doug Burgum and First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum joined the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division today in announcing that the state is awarding four tribal community grants to treat opioid use disorder, support recovery and save lives by preventing overdose deaths on tribal lands.

"We are so grateful these four tribes will each receive \$70,000 for much needed prevention, treatment and recovery services to help families and communities affected by the devastating effects of opioid abuse," the governor and first lady said.

The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; Spirit Lake Nation; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians will share in \$280,000 to increase the availability and use of naloxone, a medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose. Grantees can also use funds to increase access to medication-assisted treatment, peer support or other evidence-based recovery support services between Nov. 1, 2017 and April 15, 2018.

The community grants, while focused on opioid abuse and overdoses, are part of North Dakota's statewide response to substance addiction. Opioids include heroin, pain relievers available legally by prescription and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

Funding is provided from North Dakota's \$2 million federal 2017 State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant supporting treatment, recovery and prevention. In August, the department awarded similar grants to Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Valley City.

The department is hosting training for tribal and community grantees on Wednesday, 1-5 p.m., in the Pioneer Room of the Capitol. Participants will learn about North Dakota's response to the opioid crisis, grant requirements and other grant-funded efforts and state activities. Training will continue on site at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, when trainers from the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies will lead an all-day training on the role of prevention in addressing opioid overdose. Grantees, staff from local public health units and other interested community members are expected to attend.

"Prevention plays a critical role in addressing the opioid crisis," the department's Prevention Administrator Laura Anderson said. "By bringing together community members, we can more effectively implement comprehensive approaches that will prevent opioid overdoses and opioid overdose deaths."

In April 2017, SAMHSA awarded all states fiscal year 2017 grants to fight opioid abuse with funding authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act.

Resources addressing opioid abuse and overdose are available online at <https://behavioralhealth.dhs.nd.gov/addiction/opioid> or by contacting the division at 701-328-8919 or ndbhd@nd.gov.

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