



**Investing in the Addiction Workforce and Infrastructure**

The addiction crisis impacts millions of Americans. According to SAMHSA’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health: 2019, only about one in 10 of the 20.4 million Americans with substance use disorders (SUD) in 2019 received any form of treatment. These numbers are staggering and illustrate the clear demand for increased access to services. The COVID-19 pandemic is only expanding this treatment gap and accelerating the addiction crisis.

After several years of progress in the fight against the opioid epidemic, [data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that overdoses are increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic. A National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded [study](#) also found that people with substance use disorders are more susceptible to COVID-19 and its complications. **With data showing that the pandemic is increasing substance use and overdose deaths, we must continue our commitment to building and maintaining a strong addiction workforce and infrastructure that can help take on our nation’s growing crisis.**

**How Can Congress Help?**

**Support Robust Funding for SUD Programs**

NAADAC is pleased that Congress has provided billions of dollars in emergency funding for addiction and mental health treatment and recovery programs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage lawmakers to continue these important investments when Congress considers fiscal (FY) 2022 spending priorities.

<p><b>At least \$1.85 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.</b> This program provides infrastructure support for public-funded facilities. The SAPT Block Grant system of selection and payments are well established with a distribution plan in place. This makes for a more efficient mechanism and timelier in meeting the needs of the communities across the nation.</p>	<p><b>\$25 million for the Loan Repayment Program for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce.</b> This program was established in 2018 by the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (PL 115-271) to help incentivize students to pursue substance use disorder treatment professions by providing up to \$250,000 toward student loan repayment.</p>	<p><b>\$20.2 million for the Minority Fellowship Program.</b> This program awards funding to organizations to support the development of behavioral health practitioners. NAADAC has worked over the past two decades to increase the diversity of the behavioral health workforce in order to improve prevention, wellness, and treatment for minority populations.</p>
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**Cosponsor and Support Legislation to Strengthen SUD Programs**

Addiction affects more than just the individual; it affects the family system and community. The ***Family Support Services for Addiction Act (H.R. 433/S. 485)*** was introduced by Rep. David Trone (D-MD), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA), Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY), and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) to establish a grant program for family community organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families.

Many communities around the country are also struggling to manage the opioid crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ***Emergency Support for SUD Act (H.R. 706/S.166)*** was introduced by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH), Rep. John Katko (R-NY), Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN), and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) to address substance use disorders through harm reduction services. This bill would prioritize grants for areas around the country with higher drug use and overdose death rates, telemedicine infrastructure needs, and behavioral health and substance use disorder workforce needs.