

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2018-17

Resolution Supporting Direct Federal Funding to Municipalities to Provide Substance Use Disorder Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services

WHEREAS, America's substance use epidemic continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2014 National Survey, an estimated 21.5 million Americans suffer from addiction to drugs and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Health Statistics at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 72,000 Americans died from overdose in 2017, with large increases due to fentanyl and other powerful opioids; and

WHEREAS, the current epidemic is placing tremendous strain on local government resources who are on the front line of combating this crisis; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 Congress appropriated increased funding to support state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic via the 21st Century Cures Act and the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA); and

WHEREAS, Congress appropriated another \$1 billion in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill that will go to states under the CURES Act; and

WHEREAS, local governments across the country have developed and implemented policies and programs to address substance use disorder and support long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, local governments are well positioned to be able to rapidly expand and improve these programs with additional federal funding, providing resources and services to where they are needed most within their communities; and

WHEREAS, Congress should explore options to get additional funding directly to local governments through changes in eligibility requirements of existing programs and/or creating dedicating funding for local governments to combat substance use disorders and reduce overdose deaths,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey League of Municipalities calls on Congress to work with local governments to create new funding opportunities through existing or new programs that will allow the nation as a whole to more effectively address the current substance use crisis, help more people find recovery, and save more lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, all members of the New Jersey State Legislature, and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey.