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HHS awards Family Health funding to combat the opioid crisis

MOBILE, Alabama — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has awarded Year Two funding for its Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) program. Family Health, the primary care division of the Mobile County Health Department, will use the money to combat the nation’s opioid crisis.

The investments will enable HRSA-funded Community Health Centers, rural organizations, and academic institutions to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services. Family Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provided services to 40,594 unduplicated patients in 2019.

The awards support HHS’s Five-Point Opioid Strategy that was introduced under President Trump in 2017. The number of patients receiving medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction at HRSA-funded health centers increased 142 percent from 2016 to 2018 and, since President Trump took office, the number of patients receiving buprenorphine, a common form of MAT, has increased 28 percent.

“The Trump Administration continues to provide historic levels of support for treating Americans with substance use disorders, because the COVID-19 pandemic hasn’t put a pause on our country’s opioid crisis,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar.

HRSA is awarding funds to health centers across the nation to increase access to high quality, integrated behavioral health services, including the prevention or treatment of mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder through the IBHS program.

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