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Department of Public Health  
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July 24, 2018

Steven T. James  
House Clerk  
State House Room 145  
Boston, MA 02133

William F. Welch  
Senate Clerk  
State House Room 335  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Pursuant to Line 4512-0204 of Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2017, please find enclosed a report from the Department of Public Health entitled "*First Responder Naloxone Grants and Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution.*"

Sincerely,

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Health

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**Charles D. Baker**  
Governor

**Karyn Polito**  
Lieutenant Governor



**Marylou Sudders**  
Secretary

**Monica Bharel, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner

# **Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)**

## **First Responder Naloxone Grants**

**July 2018**



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## **Legislative Mandate**

The following report is hereby issued pursuant to Line 4512-0204 of Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2017 as follows:

### **Nasal Narcan Pilot Expansion**

*For the purchase, administration and training of first-responder and bystander naloxone distribution programs; provided, that funds shall be expended to maintain funding for first responder naloxone grants and bystander distribution in communities with high incidence of overdose; provided further, that the commissioner of public health may transfer funds between this item and item 4512-0200, as necessary, under an allocation plan which shall detail the distribution of the funds to be transferred and which the commissioner shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means 30 days before any such transfer; and provided further, that the department of public health shall submit a report not later than October 2, 2017 to the house and senate committees on ways and means on: (i) the communities included in the program expansion; (ii) the number of participants for each community; and (iii) the amount of naloxone purchased and distributed, delineated by community.*

## **Executive Summary**

The Fiscal Year 2018 budget (see Line Item 4512-0204 of Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2017) allocated \$970,000 to the Nasal Narcan Pilot Expansion to support:

- First Responder Naloxone Grants
- Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) at community bystander sites

To better support the implementation of this legislatively mandated review and report, staff has submitted the following report to update the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means on the status of these grants and related naloxone programs.

Enclosed in this report you will find a background of the nasal naloxone programs in MA and the current status of the First Responder Naloxone Grants and community bystander program.

## Introduction

In an effort to combat the rising number of opioid related overdose deaths in Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health (DPH; the Department) began the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program in November 2007 to train and provide nasal naloxone rescue kits free of charge to potential bystanders (any person likely to witness an overdose) of an opioid overdose in the community.

In 2010, DPH added the Quincy Police Department and the Revere Fire Department to the pilot program. By 2014, the pilot included six first responder departments (police and fire): the Quincy and Gloucester Police Departments, the Revere, Weymouth and Saugus Fire Departments, and the New Bedford Police and Fire Departments. As of August 2014, there were five first responder communities participating in the pilot as Gloucester voluntarily opted out and continued a program on its own.

In recent years, many communities have experienced an increase in fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses. In response, municipalities have expressed an interest in establishing first responder naloxone programs and have approached the Department for technical assistance and/or funding. The Department was limited in its ability to assist these communities due to funding and regulatory constraints until a public health emergency was declared in March 2014 in response to the opioid crisis.

Subsequently, emergency regulations were adopted allowing municipalities to establish first responder naloxone programs, and the FY15 state budget included a \$1,000,000 appropriation in line-item 4512-0204 to support expansion of the number of naloxone programs. This line item was included in Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2017 and the language requires that funds shall be expended *“for the purchase, administration, and training of first-responder and bystander naloxone distribution programs; provided, funds shall be expended to maintain funding for first responder naloxone grants and bystander distribution in communities with high incidence of overdose; ...”*

## **First Responder Naloxone Grants**

### **Overview:**

In FY18, the Department of Public Health awarded grants to 32 municipalities. These grants allowed police and fire departments to train personnel and purchase naloxone in municipalities that are most affected by this crisis. Municipalities that met the criteria listed below were invited to apply for this grant, which provides funding to purchase naloxone and cover some other related costs. Grant amounts ranged between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per department based upon the size of the municipality and expressed budget needs and requests. Grantees that were funded in FY15 have been invited each fiscal year to renew their existing contracts as per the FY15 procurement. Budgets have been adjusted each year to match departmental needs.

### **Grant Eligibility Criteria:**

Eligibility criteria were established by determining the maximum number of high need communities that could be funded by the appropriation. Communities that were eligible to apply had an average annual rate of unintentional/undetermined opioid overdose deaths above 6.0 per 100,000 and had an average annual count of 4 or above for the 2009-2013 period according to DPH vital records data. These standard measures are used by DPH to compare the level of need by community.

### **Grantees and Program Costs:**

The FY18 Grant Awards were as follows:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Grant Award Amount</b>
Beverly	\$ 20,000.00
Boston	\$ 50,000.00
Brockton	\$ 27,000.00
Chelsea	\$ 12,000.00
Chicopee	\$ 11,559.10
Everett	\$ 9,000.00
Fall River	\$ 37,000.00
Falmouth	\$ 18,000.00
Fitchburg	\$ 4,000.00
Framingham	\$ 15,000.00
Haverhill	\$ 14,000.00
Lawrence	\$ 35,000.00
Leominster	\$ 6,000.00
Lowell	\$ 45,000.00
Lynn	\$ 13,000.00
Malden	\$ 17,000.00
Medford	\$ 15,000.00
New Bedford	\$ 45,000.00
North Attleborough	\$ 4,500.00
Pittsfield	\$ 15,000.00
Plymouth	\$ 15,000.00



Quincy	\$	<b>20,000.00</b>
Revere	\$	<b>25,000.00</b>
Salem	\$	<b>9,000.00</b>
Saugus	\$	<b>4,500.00</b>
Somerville	\$	<b>27,000.00</b>
Taunton	\$	<b>7,500.00</b>
Westfield	\$	<b>5,000.00</b>
Weymouth	\$	<b>17,000.00</b>
Winthrop	\$	<b>15,000.00</b>
Worcester	\$	<b>31,000.00</b>
Yarmouth	\$	<b>8,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>597,059.10</b>

Allowable expenditures of the grant funds included:

- Purchasing naloxone
- Purchasing other supplies that support the program such as pouches or containers for the naloxone, or other equipment such as bag valve masks and nitrile gloves
- Covering staff time for training
- Paying a fee associated with a hospital or prescriber providing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for medical control
- Costs associated with paying overtime for personnel conducting post-overdose follow-up visits to homes and locations where overdoses have occurred
- Costs associated with community education related to access to treatment and other resources or related to awareness of the 911 Good Samaritan law. These costs would include strategies such as distribution of educational materials at overdose calls, hosting community forums, or outreach to substance abuse treatment programs, homeless shelters, or recovery support services program participants related to the 911 Good Samaritan Law and encouraging people to call 911 in the event of an overdose

## **Community Bystander Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Program**

### **Overview:**

In addition to the first responder grant program, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has implemented an Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program in community-based settings. These programs train individuals likely to witness an overdose (bystanders) on how to reduce overdose risk, recognize signs of an overdose, access emergency medical services, and administer intra-nasal naloxone. Potential bystanders are instructed to deliver naloxone when opioid overdose occurs in addition to taking other actions (e.g. rescue breathing and contacting the emergency medical system). The rescue kit includes instructions as well as two naloxone nasal spray devices.

### **Current Program:**

Presently, there are 17 community based agencies participating in the OEND pilot program. There are currently 27 Learn to Cope meeting sites across the Commonwealth providing OEND services. Since the start of the OEND program in 2007 through August 1, 2017, there have been a cumulative total of 62,629 individual participants trained and given a naloxone kit and 11,922 reported opioid overdose reversals using DPH bystander pilot program naloxone.

OEND program sites are currently located in the following communities. In addition, many of the surrounding communities of these site locations are also served by the OEND program:

- Boston
- Brockton
- Cambridge
- Fall River
- Falmouth
- Framingham
- Gloucester
- Greenfield
- Holyoke
- Hyannis
- Lawrence
- Lowell
- Lynn
- New Bedford
- North Adams
- Northampton
- Pittsfield
- Plymouth
- Provincetown
- Quincy
- Revere
- Springfield
- Worcester

In FY18, \$372,940.90 from 4512-0204 was used to support the community bystander program.

## **Conclusions**

- As part of the state's overall efforts to address the rise in opioid overdose deaths in the Commonwealth, the FY17 GAA included an investment of \$970,000 to continue the support of first responder and bystander naloxone programs.
- Many local police and fire departments have implemented a naloxone program or have expressed an interest in equipping police officers and firefighters with naloxone. However, municipalities often face budget constraints that make implementation challenging. This grant program, as well as DPH's Municipal Naloxone Bulk Purchase Program provides relief for that challenge.
- This funding allows more departments to provide overdose response training and to equip police officers and firefighters with this life-saving overdose antidote.
- This funding allows continued broad geographic coverage for bystander naloxone access and opioid overdose education.