

SPECIAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC BRIEFING

Rural Development Georgia | 355 East Hancock Avenue | Athens, Ga 30601 | <https://www.rd.usda.gov/ga>

April 20, 2018, ATHENS, Ga - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is keenly focused on addressing the opioid crisis in rural communities. So far, the Department has [convened regional roundtables](#) to hear firsthand accounts of the impact of the crisis and effective strategies for response in rural communities; [launched a webpage](#) on opioid misuse in rural America featuring resources for rural communities and individuals facing the crisis; and [prioritized investments in two key grant programs to address the crisis in rural places](#). For more information about these efforts, visit the USDA rural opioid misuse webpage at www.usda.gov/opioids.

Grants Announced to Combat Opioid Misuse in Rural America

USDA is reserving \$5 million in the [Community Facilities Grant Program](#) and is giving priority to [Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant \(DLT\) Program](#) applications proposing innovative projects to address the opioid epidemic in rural communities.

In the Community Facilities grant program, rural communities, non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribes can apply through the usual Community Facilities grant application process for grants up to \$150,000 for innovative projects such as mobile treatment clinics. Community Facilities grants may fund up to 75 percent of an eligible project.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program applicants will receive priority for telemedicine projects with the primary purpose of providing opioid prevention, treatment or recovery services. Eligible proposals can receive 10 priority points on their applications.

Applications for Community Facilities grants funded with this National Office reserve should be submitted on or before June 4, 2018. In Georgia, applications will be accepted at the [Area Office](#) in the county in which the applicant is located. Applications submitted after this date will be considered for regular, state-allocated funding.

The application deadline for Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants is June 4, 2018. Applications can be submitted electronically at Grants.gov or in hardcopy to: USDA Rural Development Telecommunications Programs, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 2844, STOP 1597, Washington, DC 20250-1597.

In Georgia, contact Andrew Hayes, andrew.hayes@wdc.usda.gov, Cell Phone: (770) 312-7073

Join the Webinar- Get the Facts

USDA will host a webinar for the public to help inform participants about the major eligibility and regulatory requirements of the programs and provide further details on the process. The webinar is scheduled for April 23rd at 3:30 pm EDT. Register for the Webinar at: <https://cc.readytalk.com/registration/#/?meeting=yitzd0abvixp&campaign=por35sk5i0ah>

Prescribed to Death

Today Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett visited the *Prescribed to Death* opioid memorial at President's Park. The exhibit features 22,000 pills memorializing the 22,000 Americans who died of a prescription drug overdose in 2016.

Read her heartfelt and hopeful statement about the visit at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/news-release/assistant-secretary-anne-hazlett-statement-prescribed-death-opioid-memorial>

White House Announcement about the memorial at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/just-steps-white-house-memorial-victims-americas-drug-crisis/>

What's Working in Your Town?

There's a new interactive feature on the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) rural opioid misuse webpage, <https://www.usda.gov/topics/opioids>. Now, [webpage](#) visitors can tell USDA what prevention, treatment and recovery actions have been effective in addressing the opioid epidemic in their rural communities. USDA is collecting this information as part of an ongoing effort to identify best practices and effective strategies for addressing rural opioid misuse. Please Share Your Feedback!

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