

Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services

~ Saving Lives, Saving Dollars ~

MCAS FY 2021 Budget Request for the DPH/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services Line-item 4512-0200

The *Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services* (MCAS) is a group of advocacy organizations that have come together to speak with one voice to strengthen support for funding for addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services and increased access to services for people with substance use disorders. In light of the state's ongoing opioid epidemic, MCAS respectfully requests an additional \$25 million in new funding, and the annualization of \$5 million in the FY 2021 budget for the following:

- **\$3.5 million to procure five new Recovery Centers across the state.** Recovery Centers are wanted by many Massachusetts communities. They are recognized for their success in helping individuals who have achieved recovery to sustain their recovery. Recovery Centers are safe, peer-run programs that encourage each individual's integration back into the community by participation in the actual design of activities. These include setting up the center's calendar, connecting with other peers in recovery, developing resumes and conducting job searches, as well as participation in local sports and social activities.
- **\$3 Million annualized for BSAS to continue to fund the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for workforce development through an Interagency Service Agreement, for people with substance use disorders.** MCAS has worked with MRC to discuss the development of educational pathways and *training ladders* for people in recovery to become educated and/or licensed addiction treatment professional with lived experience. This funding must be annualized for MRC to continue to build and maintain this new educational pathway that will result in a pipeline of individuals to work in the addiction treatment field.
- **\$2 Million annualized for BSAS to continue to provide technical assistance to addiction treatment providers** related to medication assisted treatment, medication management and serving people with co-occurring mental health disorders.
- **\$10 Million to maintain the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program and expand it into Lowell.** ATR is currently funded at \$7 million by the Federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, and \$3 million by the state. The SOR grant is slated to end in September of 2020, with no guarantee of continued Federal funding. MCAS strongly supports the state fully funding the ATR program as it is an extremely low-cost, effective, and outcomes driven service. ATR offers comprehensive care coordination and access to services for individuals who are re-entering the community after incarceration, including pregnant women. Care Coordinators work closely with clients to identify recovery goals and address basic needs. Recovery Coaches are often assigned to guide individuals to living a life in recovery. ATR provides special support for participants ready to engage in employment through job readiness and skills training. ATR only costs about \$231.00 per individual per month, and saves the state money in healthcare, incarceration and social costs by empowering individuals to obtain employment, reduce recidivism and find renewed hope and meaning in their lives.
- **\$10 Million to procure 10 new Family Sober Living Programs** across the state. Housing is a social determinant of health and an essential component of recovery from substance use. The Family Sober Living model is designed to address the complex issues involved in family substance use treatment and recovery. The program provides support for active housing and employment searches, and assists families with children in meeting their personal goals and objectives. This program model stabilizes families by providing a safe haven; a holistic approach to recovery that will address the inter-relationships between their physical and psychological health as well as parenting responsibilities and other supportive services to further develop the skill levels needed for independent living.

If you would like to discuss these requests further please contact Connie Peters on behalf of MCAS at 508-647-8385, extension 13 or cpeters@abhmass.org.