

**Mississippi Health Centers Receive \$3 Million  
More to Help Battle State’s Opioid Crisis**

The Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has granted more than \$3 million to 18 health centers across the state in response to the crisis caused by the opioid epidemic. The funds are part of \$200 million awarded nationally by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services.

Funds will be used to support expansion and integration of mental health services and substance abuse services. Services will focus on treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse in the primary care setting by increasing personnel, leveraging health information technology, and providing training.

"Nationally, about half of all care for common mental health conditions happens in the primary care settings," said HRSA Administrator George Sigounas, MS, Ph.D in a press release last week. "In health centers, where people are often most comfortable, staff with varied expertise have a unique opportunity to provide mental health and substance abuse services to patients who wouldn't otherwise seek or have access to treatment."

Approximately \$2.8 million of funds will be used to expand treatment by extending the amount of time a person can receive primary care in existing programs and increasing bed capacity. Due to limited funds, grant money will not be used to build a new treatment facility. The remainder of the grant will be targeted on drug abuse prevention and administration personnel and support.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health received a \$3.58 million federal grant earlier this year to fight the epidemic crisis.

From 1999 to 2013, the rate for drug poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesics such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine and methadone have nearly quadrupled. Analgesics have been used to treat both acute and chronic pain. Deaths related to heroin have also increased sharply since 2010, with a 39 percent increase between 2012 and 2013.

The eighteen health centers granted awards include:

AARON E. HENRY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CENTER, INC.	CLARKSDALE	\$175,700
ACCESS FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.	SMITHVILLE	\$175,700
AMITE COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.	LIBERTY	\$71,838
CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI CIVIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.	JACKSON	\$175,700
CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI HEALTH SERVICES, INC.	JACKSON	\$175,700

CLAIBORNE COUNTY FAMILY HEALTH CENTER	PORT GIBSON	\$175,700
COASTAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, INC.	BILOXI	\$175,700
DELTA HEALTH CENTER, INC.	MOUND BAYOU	\$175,700
FAMILY HEALTH CARE CLINIC, INC.	JACKSON	\$175,700
FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, INC.	LAUREL	\$175,700
G.A. CARMICHAEL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, INC.	CANTON	\$175,700
GREATER MERIDIAN HEALTH CLINIC, INC	MERIDIAN	\$175,700
JEFFERSON COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER INC	FAYETTE	\$175,700
MANTACHIE RURAL HEALTH CARE INC	MANTACHIE	\$175,700
NORTH MISSISSIPPI PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, INC.	ASHLAND	\$125,700
NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE, INC.	BYHALIA	\$175,701
OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES INC	SHUBUTA	\$175,700
SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE, INC.	HATTIESBURG	\$175,375