



# News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Launches New Program for Pregnant and Parenting Women Impacted by Opioids**

**(Hartford, CT)** – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) today announced the launch of the Parents Recovering from Opioid Use Disorders (PROUD) program. This family-centered initiative is designed to address the needs of pregnant and parenting women and their family members who are in any stage of recovery from a substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder. The primary goal of the program is to reduce health disparities and improve birth outcomes for parents living in the Greater Hartford and Greater New Britain areas of Connecticut.

“These communities have been hard hit by the opioid epidemic and women and children in these areas are struggling with racial, social and economic disparities,” said DMHAS Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon. “The program will help to reduce these disparities and will support the recovery journey of pregnant and parenting women and participating family members.”

The PROUD program is funded by a \$2.7 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address the substance use treatment needs of pregnant and parenting women and their family members. PROUD services are available to eligible women and families in two geographic areas of the state that have been significantly impacted by the opioid epidemic. DMHAS has contracted with Wheeler Clinic and InterCommunity Inc. for service delivery in these locations. Additionally, the Connecticut Hospital Association will provide a range of trainings on a variety of best practices for working with women with substance use disorders for healthcare professionals.

The federal dollars will be used to support a number of activities to further the goals of the program. These activities include:

- completion of both an individual and family needs assessment to inform a plan to include clinical treatment services, recovery coaching, case management and linkages to medical providers (including prenatal and pediatric care) and other supportive services such as housing and employment;
- the roll out of a community-oriented public health campaign aimed at reducing stigma and increasing knowledge of addiction;
- the training of and education for healthcare professionals to assist them to better understand and screen for substance use disorders (SUD), make referrals to treatment, provide trauma-responsive care, and understand the unique needs of women with substance use disorders;

- support for Department of Children and Families (DCF) efforts to fully implement the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) including the development of Plans of Safe Care with all pregnant participants.

To get more information on PROUD or to submit a referral, please visit [portal.ct.gov/PROUD](https://portal.ct.gov/PROUD).

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