

Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services

~ Saving Lives, Saving Dollars ~

MCAS REVISED FY 2021 Budget Request during COVID-19 Emergency 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, harm reduction, 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 and COVID-19 pandemic, MCAS respectfully requests that funding in the FY20 DPH/BSAS budget Line Item 4512-0200 for the following programs, be maintained in the FY21 budget.

- **Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR)**. MCAS requests **an additional \$1.5M over House 2 to maintain the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program with state funding**. ATR offers comprehensive care coordination and access to services for individuals who are re-entering the community post-incarceration, pregnant women and veterans. In FY20, ATR is funded at \$3 million and only \$1.5 million in funding was included in House 2. Total funding of \$3 million must be included for ATR to avoid any service reductions.
- **BSAS Technical Assistance**. MCAS requests **an additional \$2M over House 2 to fund existing training and technical assistance programs offered to BSAS contracted treatment providers**. These much-needed trainings are essential to support providers and their staff in the field, and to stay abreast of the current clinical research and best practices in the field, including medication assisted treatment, medication management, and serving people with co-occurring mental health disorders.
- **Addiction Treatment Workforce Initiatives**. MCAS requests **\$1M to annualize the current addiction treatment workforce initiative being developed through an interagency service agreement (ISA) with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)**. The House 2 budget does not include funding for this initiative. Funding would allow the continuing the workforce development strategic planning, with a wide range of stakeholders, on how to identify educational pathways with local community colleges and universities, and increase individuals referred into this service. This will result in more individuals with lived experience working in the field of addiction.

MCAS also requests that the Legislature fund the remaining BSAS line items (**4512-0201, 4512-0202, 4512-0203, 4512-0204 and 4500-0206**) at the levels recommended in the Administration's House 2 proposal. These accounts comprise an essential component of the Commonwealth's safety net and provide critical prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Connie Peters on behalf of MCAS at cpeters@abhmass.org.

Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services

AIDs Action Committee, Dan Delaney, 617-251-6774

Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Lydia Conley and Connie Peters, 508-647-8385

End Hep C Massachusetts Coalition, Richard Baker, 617-927-0836 x 188

Learn to Cope, Joanne Peterson, 508-738-5148

Massachusetts Association of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors, Joe Kelleher, 617-939-7354

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Joe Finn, 617-367-6447

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, Maryanne Frangules, 617-423-6627

Massachusetts Public Health Association, Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, 857-263-7072

Recovery Homes Collaborative, Bob Mills, 781-894-6110 ext. 1400

Student Coalition on Addiction (SCA), Kathleen Koenigs, Kathleen.koenigs@hms.harvard.edu

The Boston Public Health Commission, P.J. McCann at PMccann@bphc.org