LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

Governor Phil Murphy State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 Budget – Operation Helping Hand Expansion Grant Program

Take notice that, in compliance with <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14-34.4, and the 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> §§ 241A, 247B <u>et seq.</u>, the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department) announces the availability of the following non-competitive subaward for the SFY2021 Operation Helping Hand (OHH) Expansion Grant Program funded by Governor Phil Murphy's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.

Under the SFY2021 OHH Expansion Grant Program, $200,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to NJ Transit to establish programs in the five designated transit hubs and outlying transit areas as needed, in which NJ Transit officers play an active role in identifying individuals with substance use disorders and—together with community partners—serve as a point of entry for treatment and/or recovery support services. The OHH model may be adapted to meet NJ Transit's unique circumstances, but the program design must involve coordination and collaboration between NJ Transit officers, recovery specialists, and mental health professionals to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction with treatment and/or recovery support services.

The OHH model originated in Bergen County, where law enforcement would offer to immediately connect opioid users who were arrested in operations at known drug hot spots to treatment and/or recovery services. Now that OHH has expanded to all 21 counties in New Jersey, there are many different forms of the OHH model, including identifying individuals at risk for

drug overdoses using law enforcement data and other resources, and then sending teams of law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and other healthcare partners to offer these individuals recovery and treatment options—without making any arrests.

NJ Transit may adapt the OHH model in the five designated transit hubs and outlying areas as needed to meet its unique circumstances. For example, using available NJ Transit intelligence and the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), NJ Transit may identify individuals known to have substance use issues that have passed through the five designated transit hubs and outlying areas as needed, and then send NJ Transit officers, recovery specialists, healthcare partners, and other community partners to meet with these individuals about recovery and treatment options at their homes or the sites of the opioid incidents—without making any arrests. Alternatively, NJ Transit officers, along with addiction specialists may set up tables in the designated transit hubs during designated weekly hours to make themselves available to anyone interested in being connected to services, and directly approach those who may appear in need of help.

Based upon NJ Transit intelligence and ODMAP, the Department has identified the following five transit hubs to be the main targets of NJ Transit's OHH programs:

     (1) Newark Penn Station (Newark)
     (2) Walter Rand Transportation Center (Camden)
     (3) Atlantic City Bus Terminal (Atlantic City)
     (4) Trenton Transit Station (Trenton)
     (5) Hoboken Transit Station (Hoboken)

NJ Transit will receive $200,000 to cover the costs associated with the establishment of OHH in the five designated transit hubs with outreach available to outlying transit areas as needed.

Allowable costs for the grant funds include but are not limited to: overtime or comp time for law enforcement officers engaging in OHH activities; hiring staff, patient navigators, and recovery specialists to coordinate the initiative, track the participants, provide transportation, and make follow-up calls to those individuals who do not want to participate at the onset of the program; necessary equipment, materials, and supplies, including personal protective equipment, sanitizing wipes, harm reduction products, and food and beverages, pre-paid phones, and laptops for individuals being connected to care; transportation expenses; and refreshments and giveaways for educational and outreach efforts that promote the program.   Additionally, a subrecipient must comply with programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements for approval and/or reimbursement of costs incurred during the project period.

The funding is for a 12-month period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

NJ CARES will provide an application and award package to NJ Transit via e-mail, no later than May 7, 2021.   The application and award package is due back to the NJ CARES by July 9, 2021. One copy of the application and award package must be submitted via e-mail to levyk@njdcj.org.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis only and is contingent upon the subrecipient award package submission, compliance with grant conditions and approved deliverables, and satisfactory performance of services.

Please note that the funding allocation and subaward amount is subject to change.   The Subrecipient shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly dependent upon the availability

to the Department of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue to such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set forth in a grant agreement.