This project is supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant number GA1RH33536 and project title Rural Communities Opioid Response—Implementation. The information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HRHS or the U.S. Government.
Our Response: The New York State Area Health Education Center System is working to strengthen and expand substance use/opioid use prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery in the following high-risk rural counties: Hamilton, Montgomery, and Wyoming. This three year program assembles a consortium of direct care providers, local county health agencies, and community non-profit organizations to accomplish project objectives.

Provider Partners
- Citizen Advocates
- Montgomery County Public Health Department
- Spectrum Health and Human Services

Prevention
⇒ AHEC centers will coordinate community and provider education events that focus on:
  - Increasing awareness of substance use disorders (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD)
  - Decreasing stigma associated with individuals who are affected by SUD/OUD
  - Naloxone/Narcan trainings
  - Developing intervention models for healthcare professionals and law enforcement personnel

⇒ Provider partners will:
  - Increase/maintain number of providers who use a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
  - Identify and screen individuals who are at risk for SUD/OUD

Treatment
⇒ Increase number of providers trained in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT):
  - MAT is used to treat OUD by incorporating
    - Medication: buprenorphine
      - Buprenorphine reduces drug use and cravings, as well as death from opioids
    - Counseling
    - Behavioral Therapy

⇒ Strengthen collaborations with local law enforcement through:
  - Enhancing their ability to provide emergency treatment, including first responders
  - Coordinating or supporting skill development trainings

Recovery
⇒ Develop recovery communities and organizations to expand availability and access to recovery services

⇒ Enable individuals, families, and caregivers to identify nearby recovery support services

Rural communities face unique challenges when it comes to dealing with SUD/OUD:
- Health care provider shortages
- Limited local treatment options
- Socioeconomic vulnerabilities not faced by urban counterparts

FOR IMMEDIATE HELP WITH SUBSTANCE USE CALL: 1-877-8-HOPENY