AUSTIN — The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has new resources to fight opioid use disorders in Texas. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently awarded HHSC $46.2 million to support a comprehensive response to opioid misuse in Texas. The grant will be funded annually for the next two years. Funds will be used to expand access to treatment and recovery support services and provide increased access to medication-assisted treatment.

HHSC will use the State Opioid Response grant funding in conjunction with Texas Targeted Opioid Response funds, which total $27.4 million annually and will end April 2019.

“The complexity of the opioid crisis requires a multifaceted approach, and it is essential that Texas continue to develop and improve prevention and treatment measures to address the issue. This award helps with that effort,” said Sonja Gaines, HHSC Deputy Executive Commissioner for Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health Services.

Under the grant, services will begin by December 31, 2018. Activities include:

- Development of opioid misuse prevention, medically assisted treatment and recovery support services to address the opioid misuse and the overdose crisis.
- Implementation of models for full spectrum treatment and recovery support services; community peer support, peer coaching, and recovery housing; and prevention and education services.

The grant requires that evidence-based treatments, practices, and interventions for opioid use disorder be used. In addition, support services will be offered.

For more information on accessing behavioral health services in Texas, visit [https://MentalHealthTX.org](https://MentalHealthTX.org).

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