



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'Étoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Governor Dayton's Legislative Proposals to Prevent and Treat Opioid Abuse

Opioid addiction has had a devastating impact on families and communities in Minnesota, and across the country. Overdoses involving prescription opioids account for more than any other drug, and the great majority of heroin and other illicit opioid users starts with prescriptions. In 2016, 395 people died from opioid overdoses in Minnesota – an 18 percent increase over the previous year.

In response, Governor Dayton and his Administration [have already been working](#) to curb opioid use disorder and save lives. This year, the Governor has proposed a robust legislative package to build on those efforts, annually investing about \$12 million in efforts to enhance opioid abuse prevention, treatment and recovery, overdose emergency response, and law enforcement strategies.

More information about how Governor Dayton's legislative proposals would curb opioid abuse and save lives all across Minnesota is below.

Investing in Strategies to Prevent Opioid Abuse

Policy	Description
Supporting American Indian, Community, and Culturally-Sensitive Opioid Abuse Prevention Efforts	Tribal nations, local governments, and other community organizations are often best positioned to assist Minnesotans at-risk of opioid abuse because they understand the unique issues impacting their local communities. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$5 million annual investment to provide grants to areas and populations with the greatest needs. Of this amount, \$4 million annually will be granted to the 11 Tribal Nations and urban American Indian communities to fund their opioid and drug prevention programs and \$1 million annually will be granted to communities to support local prevention efforts.
Investing in Minnesota's Prescription Monitoring Program to Reduce Opioid Overprescribing	The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy found that 1 percent of prescribers accounted for 21 percent of all prescriptions of controlled substances in 2016. This year, Governor Dayton has proposed a \$1.2 million investment to connect Minnesota's Prescription Monitoring Program to electronic patient health records. Connecting these databases would make it easier for health care providers to discourage "doctor shopping" and reduce overprescribing.

Improving Treatment and Recovery Services

Policy	Description
<p>Improving Access to High-Quality Opioid Use Disorder Treatment</p>	<p>Governor Dayton has proposed new resources that would help expedite access to high-quality, evidence-based care for people with opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders. Providers would be able to increase use of a screening tool known as SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) to determine earlier if someone needs treatment services and more quickly make a referral for treatment.</p>
<p>Integrating Opioid Treatment into Other Medical Care and Community Services</p>	<p>Research shows that patients struggling with opioid use disorder are more likely to receive and sustain treatment when that treatment is provided within a primary care setting. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$2.1 million investment to integrate opioid use treatment into medical care for at-risk pregnant women. The funding also would support the integration of opioid use treatment into programs for chronic pain management, individuals in the correctional system, and locally-based programming.</p>

Supporting Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders

Policy	Description
<p>Expanding Access to Life-Saving Overdose Medication</p>	<p>Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can rapidly reverse opioid overdoses and restore normal respiration to a person whose breathing has been impacted by a heroin or prescription opioid pain medication overdose. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$1 million annual investment to fund the purchase of naloxone for first responders across the state. The investment also would provide funding to train all first responders on how to effectively use the medication in emergency situations.</p>
<p>Supporting the Efforts of Local Law Enforcement to Curb and Respond to Opioid Abuse</p>	<p>The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) drug chemistry laboratory analyzes evidence submitted by local law enforcement agencies from across the state. The agency’s scientists also provide expert testimony in both state and federal courts.</p> <p>Governor Dayton has proposed a \$1.4 million investment to allow the BCA to hire additional scientists, which would reduce the turnaround time for analyzing drug evidence. It also would allow the agency to hire additional drug investigators to work with Minnesota’s Tribal Nations.</p>

**Improving Treatment in
Correctional Facilities**

Approximately 90 percent of Minnesota inmates are diagnosed as chemically abusive or dependent. Because there is a strong link between substance abuse and crime, the Minnesota Department of Corrections provides treatment to offenders prior to release from prison. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$710,000 annual investment to hire additional staff to help offenders receive treatment while incarcerated and remain substance free after being released.

* * * * *