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## **Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long Announces Fund Connecting Underserved Communities to Prevention and Recovery Support Services**

**DOVER, DE** - Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long today announced the launch of the Prevention and Recovery Support Services Fund to reduce overdose deaths across the state by boosting access to support services in underserved communities. The initiative will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and was championed by Delaware’s Congressional Delegation – U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester. ARPA was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, drug overdose deaths in Delaware continued to rise and have disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities and people living in rural areas. The fund will leverage ARPA dollars to support organizations working in those communities to connect Delawareans with services that address the social factors that both put people at higher risk and make it more difficult to access substance use disorder and behavioral health treatment. Funding will be awarded to service providers and community organizations, including faith-based and advocacy groups, and can be used to eliminate barriers for people experiencing or at-risk for developing substance use disorder face when accessing services such as transportation, housing, and workforce capacity.

“Difficulty securing housing, transportation, healthcare, education combined with economic insecurity pose significant barriers to sustained recovery from substance use disorder. I’ve seen it firsthand while personally administering Narcan to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic,” **Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long** said. “By engaging and supporting organizations that work directly in our communities, we can better link Delawareans to the services they need and help prevent our at-risk neighbors from developing substance use

disorder. I am grateful to President Biden and our federal delegation for delivering these much-needed resources to the communities that are too often forgotten.”

Hall-Long also announced that Taylor Hawk has been hired to manage and administer the Prevention and Recovery Support Services Fund. Hawk most recently served as Policy Director for the Delaware State Senate where she led legislative and policy advocacy efforts for the senate’s majority caucus. Prior to that, she also served two years as the Executive Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader. Hawk earned her Master of Public Administration from the University of Delaware in 2017.

“Combating an ever-evolving overdose epidemic means utilizing the right resources at the right time,” **said Lieutenant Governor Hall-Long**. “Taylor understands what it takes to lead this initiative and coordinate critical support services that will directly help Delaware families and save lives. Her experience will be instrumental in this effort.

Organizations may apply for funding by visiting <https://ltgov.delaware.gov/recovery-management-support-services-fund/>. Applications must be submitted by October 28, 2022, to be considered for available funding.

The State of Delaware has been investing American Rescue Plan Act funding in projects across the state that meet pandemic response needs; build a stronger, more equitable economy in communities hit hard by COVID-19; provide immediate economic stabilization for impacted households and businesses; and address systemic public health, public safety, and economic challenges.

Visit [de.gov/rescueplan](https://de.gov/rescueplan) to learn more about the initiatives funded by ARPA.