

# **The Community Action Opioid Response Act of 2018**

## **Senators Susan M. Collins (R-ME) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**

Community Action Agencies and Community Action Partnerships (CAAs and CAPS) are a nationwide network of more than 1,000 anti-poverty organizations that create, coordinate, and deliver services to individuals and families in need to help them achieve self-sufficiency. These CAAs and CAPs are leaders in their communities, and they are uniquely positioned to identify and respond to the unmet needs facing low-income families affected by the opioid epidemic.

Addressing the opioid epidemic requires a multi-pronged, community-based response. Over the years, CAAs and CAPs have joined forces with schools, health care providers, law enforcement, emergency response teams, social service providers, local businesses, faith-based groups, and countless others to bring needed resources to their communities.

The **Community Action Opioid Response Act of 2018** would help CAAs and CAPs expand and enhance their services to individuals and families facing opioid addiction and misuse. The bill would establish a new, competitive grant program to help agencies grow and support effective community efforts to identify and respond to the causes and consequences of opioid misuse and addiction experienced by low-income individuals, families, and communities.

The Community Action Opioid Response Grant would support a wide range of activities, including:

- public education and community awareness;
- outreach and referral to appropriate treatment, recovery, and other resources;
- direct services to prevent, treat, or recover from opioid addiction;
- services to stabilize education, employment, housing, transportation, and other needs of individuals and families;
- services to address the impact of opioid addiction on children;
- support for children and their caregivers, including grandparents and other relative caregivers, who are in foster care or at-risk of foster care placement;
- development of innovative community-based services using a two-generation approach that responds to the needs of parents and children together who are experiencing opioid misuse or addiction;
- development of a broad array of diverse community partnerships to coordinate and expand resources to individuals and their families; and
- training for CAA and CAP personnel in opioid addiction issues, including early identification of at-risk individuals and the administration of overdose prevention drugs.

Grants would be awarded for up to three years, and the Secretary would be required to take into consideration the relative proportion of awards among rural and urban areas. The bill would authorize \$50,000,000 over five years. Each grant award would be no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$1,000,000.