

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I write in support of the application submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Justice (NH DOJ) for a grant from the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). Funding from this program would enable NH DOJ to expand two successful initiatives into more cities and towns across the Granite State – a Prevention, Enforcement & Treatment (PET) Program based on a successful initiative in Laconia, NH and an Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) Technical Assistance Center. These programs will further equip first responders with the training and professional development they need to continue their meaningful work on the front lines of this substance use crisis.

Support from COSSAP would establish a Technical Assistance Center (TAC) for ACERT that will foster an open dialogue among first responders, social services and health agencies. This will build on the innovative work of the Manchester Police Department and Amoskeag Health in facilitating a referral process that connects families and children to mental health services after first responder intervention. Since it launched its partnership in 2015, Manchester's ACERT has referred more than 1,200 children to services. The TAC will provide training opportunities to ensure that other ACERT programs across New Hampshire are trauma-informed and meet the immediate needs of children and families exposed to violence.

NH DOJ's proposal would also extend the reach of an innovative Prevention, Enforcement & Treatment Program launched by the Laconia Police Department in 2014. After recognizing that police officers regularly come in contact with people suffering from substance use disorder, the City of Laconia decided to devote one full-time officer to respond to every overdose call. This officer could quickly connect individuals and families to available resources. The program enjoyed almost immediate success alongside broad community support. Funding from COSSAP would help bring the PET Program to six other police departments in the Granite State.

I support this grant application from the New Hampshire Department of Justice and urge your serious consideration of this worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis on my staff at 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator