
AB 653: Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program (in pertinent part)

SECTION 1.

Article 6 (commencing with Section 6047) is added to Chapter 5 of Title 7 of Part 3 of the Penal Code, to read:

Article 6. Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program

6047.

For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Criminal justice supervision" means probation, postrelease community supervision, and mandatory supervision.

(b) "Medication-assisted treatment" means the use of any United States Food and Drug Administration-approved medically assisted therapy to treat a substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder, and that, whenever possible, is provided through a program licensed or certified by the State Department of Health Care Services.

6047.1.

(a) The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Grant Program is hereby created and shall be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

(b) The board shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to counties, as authorized by this article. The board shall establish minimum standards, funding schedules, and procedures for awarding grants.

(c) MAT Grant Program funds may be used by recipient counties for one or more of the following activities:

(1) Salaries and related costs for the placement of substance use disorder counselors in county jails that provide medication-assisted treatment to inmates with a substance use disorder.

(2) Doses of medication related to substance use disorder for inmates to take home upon release from county jail.

(3) Funding for services provided pursuant to contracts between county jail health providers and narcotic treatment providers.

(4) Mobile crisis teams of behavioral health professionals that can respond with law enforcement to mental health or other health crisis calls. Mobile response activities funded pursuant to this section shall include referrals for substance use disorder treatment and medication-assisted treatment for individuals under criminal justice supervision when clinically appropriate.

(5) Salary and related costs for providing medication-assisted treatment for persons who are under criminal justice supervision.

(6) Funding to increase capacity for community-based, medication-assisted treatment and substance use disorder treatment services for justice-involved individuals, or to improve care coordination and connections to medication-assisted treatment services upon release from correctional facilities. Activities may include, but are not limited to, capital expenditures or operating costs to establish new reentry centers or treatment programs that will serve justice-involved populations, expansion of existing community-based, medication-assisted treatment services to better meet the needs of justice-involved individuals, and other strategies to ensure timely and appropriate access to medication-assisted treatment upon release.

(d) MAT Grant Program funds shall not be used to supplant existing resources for medication-assisted treatment services delivered in county jails or in the community.

(e) (1) Counties that receive grants pursuant to this article shall collect and maintain data pertaining to the effectiveness of the program, as indicated by the board in the request for proposals, including data on drug overdoses of, and the rate of recidivism for, inmates and persons under criminal justice supervision who receive county-administered, medication-assisted treatment services.

(2) (A) Information relating to the rate of recidivism that shall be collected and maintained pursuant to this subdivision includes all of the following, as they relate to inmates or persons under criminal justice supervision who receive services funded pursuant to this article:

(i) The number and percentage who were sentenced to jail or prison within three years after being released from a jail sentence in which they were provided services funded pursuant to this article, or for persons under criminal justice supervision, after having been provided with services that were funded pursuant to this article.

(ii) The number and percentage who were convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony within three years after being released from a jail sentence in which they were provided services funded pursuant to this article, or for persons under criminal justice supervision, after having been provided with services that were funded pursuant to this article.

(iii) The number and percentage who were arrested for a crime or who have had their parole, probation, mandatory supervision, or postrelease community supervision revoked within three years after being released from a jail sentence in which they were provided services funded pursuant to this article, or for persons under criminal justice supervision, after having been provided with services that were funded pursuant to this article.

(3) A county that receives a grant pursuant to this article shall include recidivism data for persons released from jail, or under criminal justice supervision, who received services pursuant to this article less than three years prior to any reporting period established by the board pursuant to paragraph (4).

(f) A county that receives a grant pursuant to this article may use state summary criminal history information, as defined in Section 11105, or local summary criminal history information, as defined in Section 13300, to collect data as required by the board.

(g) The board may establish a deadline by which counties that receive grants pursuant to this article are required to submit data collected and maintained pursuant to this subdivision to the board to enable the board to comply with the reporting requirement in Section 6047.2.

(h) The board may use up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated for the program each year for the costs of administering the program, including, without limitation, the employment of personnel and evaluation of activities supported by the grant funding.

6047.2.

On or before July 1, 2025, the board shall compile a report describing the activities funded pursuant to this article, and the success of those activities in reducing drug overdoses and recidivism by jail inmates and persons under criminal justice supervision. The report shall be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code.

6047.3.

This article shall be operative only to the extent that funding is provided, by express reference, in the annual Budget Act or another statute for the purposes of this article.