



Redington Fairview General Hospital

P.O. Box 468
46 Fairview Ave
Skowhegan
Maine 04976
(207) 474-5121
www.RFGH.net

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT

Matt L'Italien
Somerset Public Health
Redington-Fairview General Hospital
20 Madison Avenue
Skowhegan, ME 04976
207-858-8451
www.rfgh.net
www.somersetpublichealth.org

Redington Fairview lands a 1 million dollar grant from the Health Resources Service Administration.

Skowhegan, Maine — Redington Fairview General Hospital (RFGH) and its partners, (Somerset County Sheriff Office, Skowhegan Police Department, Kennebec Behavioral Health, Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, and HealthReach Community Health Centers) received a grant totaling one million dollars to address opioid use in Somerset County.

The grant is part of the Health Resources Service Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy that awarded \$89 million to 89 rural organizations across 38 states as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Implementation Program. These awards are part of a federal, broader focus on rural health and human service issues.

The funds will help to improve and expand services for opiate use disorder in communities across Somerset County. Last year, RFGH and its partners identified gaps in services and created pathways to low barrier treatment for people with Opiate Use Disorder living in Somerset County. With the grant, the plan is to interrupt and transform the current cycle in which people in Somerset County with Opiate Use Disorder are arrested, put in jail, released, and then re-arrested. Additionally the grant activities will focus on increasing the ability to provide treatment, especially Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opiate Use Disorder. Lastly, the grant will help the group build community level support for successful recovery from Opiate Use Disorder. The group will work with communities to apply a set of core prevention, treatment and recovery activities grounded in evidence-based or promising practice models and tailored to the communities' needs.

If you are interested in learning more about our project, contact Somerset Public Health at 474-7473.