



Grant awarded to expand opioid treatment to Medicaid population

By [Tracey Drury](#) – Reporter, Buffalo Business First
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A three-year federal grant will allow three area health providers to expand access to medication-assisted treatment to Medicaid recipients with opioid addiction.

The \$1.5 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will see Endeavor Health Services working with the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Care Organization (GBUACO) and Monroe Health Plan, a Rochester-based company that operates YourCare Health Plan in Buffalo.

YourCare Health **has been working** with GBUACO since 2016 through a state-designed Medicaid accountable care organization to reduce costs and improve care for Medicaid recipients.

The new federal grant will help primary care doctors in the GBUACO network expand access to MAT services, including medications like buprenorphine, to patients with opioid use disorder. Endeavor Health will provide behavioral health services as well as access to MAT services and other programs.

All of GBUACO's primary care physicians will have daily access to support from addiction medicine practitioners and in the next year, three quarters of GBUACO practices will have a primary care doctor certified to prescribe MAT. Endeavor (formerly known as Mid-Erie Mental Health) will co-locate behavioral health counselors at GBUACO primary care sites to provide counseling as part of a comprehensive treatment approach.

The grant continues a series of state and federal funding actions designed to address the opioid crisis that has led to hundreds of overdoses and deaths in the region. Just last week, **\$3.4 million was awarded** locally in two separate grants.