

Staten Island PPS banks federal funding for opioid workforce effort

Staten Island Performing Provider System said on Friday that it has been awarded more than \$650,000 in federal funding to expand the borough's workforce to address the ongoing opioid crisis.

The grant, over three years, is from the Health Resources and Services Administration as part of the agency's Opioid Workforce Expansion paraprofessionals program.

The PPS said it will use the funding to train and employ 240 certified recovery peer advocates, or CRPAs, and community health workers at 33 sites. The workforce will support the provision of substance- and opioid-use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services.

The purpose of the funding, the PPS said, is to better community-based training for students looking to become peer-support specialists or other types of behavioral health-focused paraprofessionals.

"Staten Island was the first community in New York to truly integrate CRPAs into the full spectrum of a multipronged effort to battle addiction and overdose," said Joseph Conte, executive director of the PPS, in a statement. The funding "will expand our capacity to support training for our partners in the Substance Use Disorder Consortium in New York and across the country."

Earlier this year [the PPS partnered](#) with the MIT Sloan School of Management Initiative for Health Systems Innovation on data-focused work to improve health outcomes and costs, including those tied to the opioid crisis.