

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 17-146 (Opioid Epidemic)

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared a national opioid epidemic which poses a severe threat to the State of Florida and requires that measures are taken to protect the communities and the general welfare of this State; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, opioids were responsible for over 33,000 deaths nationwide; and nearly 3,900 deaths in Florida; and

WHEREAS, opioid abuse has required additional resources from local first responders such as law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2017, the United States Department of Health and Human Services awarded a grant to the Florida Department of Children and Families in the amount of \$27,150,403 per year for two years to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to address this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to immediately draw down these federal grant funds to provide services to Florida communities instead of waiting until the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, I directed DCF, DOH and FDLE to meet with communities and hold workshops to identify additional strategies to fight the rising opioid usage cases in Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1 (a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Public Health Act, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I declare that the opioid epidemic threatens the State of Florida with an emergency, and that as a consequence of this danger a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida.

Section 2. I give the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement the authority to suspend the effect of any statute, rule, ordinance, or order, to the extent necessary to procure any and all necessary supplies, commodities, services, temporary premises, and other resources, including, but not limited to, any and all statutes, rules, ordinances, or orders which affect leasing, printing, purchasing, travel, and the condition of employment and the compensation of employees, but any statute, rule, ordinance, or order shall be suspended only to the extent necessary to ensure the timely performance of disaster response functions. Any waiver of statutes, rules, ordinances, or orders which affect leasing, printing, purchasing, travel, and the condition of employment and the compensation of employees shall be by emergency rule or order in accordance with sections 120.54(4) and 252.46, Florida Statutes and in no event shall remain in effect beyond the date of expiration of this Order, as extended, or ninety days from the issuance of this Order.

Section 3. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may waive all statutes and rules affecting budgeting to the extent necessary to provide budget

authority for state agencies to cope with this emergency. The requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such waiver issued by the Executive Office of the Governor.

Section 4. I find that the demands placed upon the funds appropriated to the agencies of the State of Florida and to local agencies are unreasonably great and may be inadequate to pay the costs of coping with this severe circumstance. In accordance with section 252.37(2), Florida Statutes, I direct that sufficient funds be made available, as needed, by transferring and expending moneys appropriated for other purposes, moneys from unappropriated surplus funds, or from the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Section 5. I direct the State Health Officer and Surgeon General, Celeste Philip, M.D., MPH, to declare a statewide public health emergency, pursuant to its authority in section 381.00315, Florida Statutes.

Section 6. In accordance with section 381.0011(7), Florida Statutes, I direct the State Health Officer to take any action necessary to protect the public health. Further, I direct the State Health Officer to immediately issue a standing order for approved opioid antagonists to ensure emergency responders have access to this lifesaving medication.

Section 7. This Executive Order shall expire sixty days from this date unless extended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 3rd day of May, 2017.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2017 MAY -3 AM 10:30

FILED