DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Secretary

Notice is hereby given that I have delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, or her successor, the authorities vested in the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, under Sec. 1003(a), (c), and (d) of the 21st Century Cures Act to support the Opioid Grant Program. This authority excludes the authority to promulgate regulations and to submit reports to Congress. These authorities may be re-delegated. I have ratified and affirmed any actions taken by the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use or by any subordinates, which, in effect involved the exercise of these authorities delegated herein prior to the effective date of this delegation. This delegation was effective upon date of signature.

Thomas E. Price,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Secretary

Opioid State Targeted Response
Grants

Opioids were responsible for over 33,000 deaths in 2015; this alarming statistic is unacceptable. Through a sustained focus on people, patients, and partnerships, this crisis can be addressed across our nation.

Last month President Trump announced the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. This Commission is tasked with studying the scope and effectiveness of the federal response to this crisis and providing recommendations to the President for improving it. As the Administration develops a comprehensive strategy to improve the federal response to combat opioids, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must ensure the Opioid State Targeted Response grants are aligned accordingly and put to the best use possible. Given the urgency of the issue, we understand the need to release the funding for the first year of this program immediately. However, the intentions of HHS for the subsequent year to best address this tragic issue.


Thomas E. Price,
Secretary.