In April, the federal government released $485 million in grants to states to combat the opioid crisis. The amounts of the grants, the same in both 2017 and this year, vary from $2 million to states with less population to $44.7 million dollars to California.

"Within the first year, we have already seen states use the funding to support innovative models to connect Americans with the evidence-based programs and practices proven to help people who have opioid use disorders," Dr. Elinore F. McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use said in a Department of Health and Human Services press release announcing the funding.

The grants are part of the 21st Century Cures Act passed by Congress in December 2016. The nearly 1,000 page bill, in the works for over three years, provides $1 billion for states to fund opioid abuse prevention and treatment. The legislation also appropriated $4.8 billion for cancer research and a major brain research initiative, as well as addressing ways to accelerate FDA approval for medical research and treatments and to enhance health IT interoperability.

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