

# Addressing the Opioid Crisis Series

## Delivery and Partnership Models

November 21, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. ET

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Access slides & recording: <http://www.nlada.org/node/27856>



**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association  
[nlada.org](http://nlada.org)

# Today's Presenters

## Casey Chiappetta

Senior Program Associate, Legal Services  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
[c.chiappetta@nlada.org](mailto:c.chiappetta@nlada.org)

## Joshua Crabtree

Executive Director  
Legal Aid of the Bluegrass  
[jcrabtree@lablaw.org](mailto:jcrabtree@lablaw.org)

## Brian Dufresne

Project Lead, Kids Rise  
Legal Aid of the Bluegrass  
[Bdufresne@lablaw.org](mailto:Bdufresne@lablaw.org)

## James Conway

Executive Director  
Washoe Legal Services  
[jconway@washoelegalservices.org](mailto:jconway@washoelegalservices.org)

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# Agenda

## 1. Introduction

- Previous webinars & NLADA resources

## 2. Partnership and delivery models

- Questions to guide your planning
- Examples of partnership models

## 3. Hearing from Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

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## 4. Hearing from Washoe Legal Services

## 5. Q & A

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# Previous webinar: Research & funding

<http://www.nlada.org/node/27006>

- 2.1m individuals with a [Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\)](#)<sup>1</sup> and 11.8m people with [opioid misuse](#)<sup>2</sup>
- [31 percent](#) of Americans know someone who is addicted to opioids, compared to 27 percent in 2017<sup>3</sup>
  - [The total economic burden](#) is \$504b and costs \$28.9b in healthcare costs<sup>4</sup>
- SUDs commonly co-occur with [domestic violence](#),<sup>5</sup> [homelessness](#),<sup>6</sup> and [mental illness](#)<sup>7</sup>

# Find research

**THE JUSTICE IN GOVERNMENT PROJECT**  
NLADA  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association

## Civil Legal Aid Helps Those Affected by the Opioid Crisis

Among the nearly 72,000 drug overdose deaths in 2017, the sharpest increase occurred among deaths related to opioids.<sup>1</sup> Every day, 1,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for opioid overdoses. The total economic burden is estimated to be \$504 billion.<sup>2</sup> Of this, \$28.9 billion is due to health care costs. Including those in recovery and their extended family members, more than 11 million Americans are affected by the opioid crisis, with 2.1 million addicted.<sup>3</sup> They need our help.

Policymakers know the current epidemic requires a multi-disciplinary response that includes law enforcement, doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, social workers, and case managers.

But civil legal aid providers are also essential partners in solving one of America's most pressing public health issues.

**THE NEED IS GREAT...**  
• Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a chronic lifelong disorder that may affect an individual's ability to meet responsibilities at home, work, and school<sup>4</sup> and result in social, economic, and/or legal consequences.<sup>5</sup>  
• SUD commonly co-occurs with intimate partner violence,<sup>6</sup> homelessness,<sup>7</sup> and mental illness.<sup>8</sup>

**LEGAL AID HELPS...**  
• In Washington counties where a pilot parent representation program was established, the reunification rate between children and parents was 11 percent higher, adoption rates were 83 percent higher, and the rate of entrance to guardianships was 102 percent higher compared to counties where the program was not established.<sup>12</sup>

<https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/upload/opioid-fact-sheets.pdf>



About Make It Better Browse Resources For Search & Filter

## LEGAL AID RESEARCH.org

Case Types (LSC) Who Served How Provided Practice Areas  
Topics Geography

SEARCH BELOW. BROWSE LINKS ABOVE. OR CLICK ON SEARCH & FILTER ABOVE

WELCOME

<https://legalaidresearch.org/>



School of Public Affairs > Justice Programs Office > The Justice in Government Project Toolkit > Module 1: Research on civil legal aid

### Module 1: Research on Civil Legal Aid

GO TO RESEARCH

This module helps bridge the gap between what researchers can tell us and what policymakers need to know about how civil legal aid can both help individuals and make existing programs more effective. Continue reading to see the evidence base for how legal aid can help children, individuals with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, law enforcement, and returning citizens among others.

Each brief begins with research highlights of the curated studies, followed by a narrative overview describing the topic covered within the brief and how civil legal aid makes a difference for those affected (e.g., the state of domestic violence in the U.S. and how civil legal aid makes a difference for survivors), featured federal resources (when available), additional resources, and summaries, methodologies, and key findings of studies.

**RESEARCH**

- Legal aid reduces barriers to employment for people with a criminal record +
- Legal aid helps individuals with disabilities +
- Legal aid assists domestic violence survivors +
- Legal aid helps those affected by the opioid crisis +
- Legal aid keeps kids in school +
- Legal aid assists survivors of elder abuse +
- Legal aid improves outcomes for children in foster care and child welfare proceedings +



<https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/toolkit/module-1.cfm>

Sign up for our newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/justresearchsignup>

# Previous webinar: Research & funding

<http://www.nlada.org/node/27006>

- [HUD – Resident Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency](#): Funds public housing authorities to hire Service Coordinators to link residents to supportive services<sup>1</sup>
- [DOJ OVC - Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis](#): Support children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis<sup>2</sup>
- [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program](#): Designed to strengthen and expand SUD/ODU prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery in high-risk rural communities<sup>3</sup>
-  [HHS – Opioid Family Support Program \\*Forecast\\*](#): Designed to expand “integrated, interprofessional” teams to support children whose parents have been impacted by OUD and SUD and family members in guardianship roles<sup>4</sup>

# Previous webinar: Research & funding

<http://www.nlada.org/node/27006>

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**
  - US Dept of Health & Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (HHS SAMHSA)
- **State Opioid Response Grants**
  - HHS SAMHSA
- **AmeriCorps**
  - Corporation for National and Community Service
- **VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program**
  - US Dept of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ OVC)
- **Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance**
  - HHS Administration for Children & Families Children's Bureau
- Read more about these grants in the Justice in Government Project's Toolkit:  
<https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/toolkit/module-2.cfm>

# Find funding

School of Public Affairs

FORECASTING GUIDE

## Grants Forecasting Guide

Some agencies make it easy to learn about “forecasted” grants, or potential funding opportunities. Grant-making agencies, pending budgetary and discretionary spending approvals and federal agency program decisions, often offer previews of their planned funding opportunities. This guide walks you through how to find forecasted grants, open grants, and past grantees as well as questions you might consider asking previous grantees about their experience.

This guide is designed to help you:

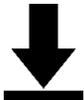
- Learn about the grant making process and how agencies make and publicize grants;
- Find past grantees to help you design your project; and
- Prepare for grants that are not yet open.

The Justice in Government Project (JGP) teamed up with the National Legal Aid & Defender Association to prepare this guide to finding forecasted federal grants and related information about future prospective postings, identifying prior grantees, and some strategies for using the information to prepare for possible applications.

Why should I care about forecasted grants? +



<https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/toolkit/forecasting-guide.cfm>



<http://legalaidresources.org/forecasting-grants-final/>

## Civil Legal Aid Federal Funding Resources

Search

LEGALAID RESOURCES.org

NLADA National Legal Aid & Defender Association nlada.org

EXPRESS LANGUAGE FOR LEGAL AID | HELPFUL TOOLS | ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

SUBGRANT POSSIBILITIES | PASS-THROUGH/ BLOCK GRANTS

About LegalAidResources | Area of Law | Population Served | Federal Agency/Entity | Settlements | Contact

### CNCS – AmeriCorps State and National (2020)

BY NLADA on SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 · ( 0 )

Applications Due: January 8, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET  
AmeriCorps State and National (AmeriCorps) is a national service program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). AmeriCorps engages tens of thousands of men and women in intensive community... [Read More >](#)



<https://legalaidresources.org/>



Sign up for email alerts on the homepage!

# Previous webinar: Collecting & using data

<http://www.nlada.org/node/27326>

- Why screen? Help identify funding sources & make the case.
- Questions to consider when collecting data
  1. To what extent has your work impacted access to legal services?
  2. To what degree has your work impacted case outcomes?
  3. How well was the program implemented?
- Legal Aid of West Virginia – how did they do it?

# Planning for a partnership

- Do you have a state or local drug and/or alcohol board?
- What population do you want to serve?
  - Individuals with SUD
  - Children
  - Caregivers
- Do you have any existing partnerships with schools, family resource centers, and other service providers?
- Are there existing MLPs in your area? [Search here:](https://medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/)  
<https://medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/>

# Delivery models: MLPs

- Washoe Legal Services
  - More on this later!
- Good Samaritan Hospital Faculty Medical Center and Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati
  - Target pregnant women with OUD
  - Address co-occurring and underlying legal needs
  - Training for attorneys → Understanding SUD
  - Training for nurses and social workers → Spotting legal problems and making referrals

[Read more here](https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/opioid-crisis-brief/)

<https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/opioid-crisis-brief/>

**Psst! Check out  
the National  
Center for  
Medical-Legal  
Partnership for  
resources**



# Delivery models: Serving children

- Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO)
  - Partnering with “A Better Chance” Program Clinic at the Center on child Abuse and Neglect & Child Study Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
  - Address wraparound legal needs
- Legal Aid of West Virginia (LAWV)
  - Lawyer in the School Project at schools in Marion County, WV
  - Provides onsite legal help to school families
  - Not just related to opioid use
- Legal Aid of the Bluegrass
  - More on this later!

Read more here: <https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/upload/opioid-fact-sheets.pdf>



# Working with Courts

- [Texas Legal Services Center](#) (Texas Kinicare Project)<sup>1</sup>
  - Provides free legal help to grandparents and other extended family members caring for children
- [Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#)<sup>2</sup>
  - Run a free custody clinic at the Hamilton County Juvenile Court
  - Attorneys don't appear in court with clients, but provide advice

1. <https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/news/prescription-drug-abuse-leading-to-more-grandparents-raising-grandchildren/>
2. <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/free-clinic-helps-families-care-for-children-of-addicted-parents>

**Psst! Check out  
Voices for Civil  
Justice for  
resources on  
storytelling &  
communications**



# Kentucky Kids Rise

Joshua Crabtree & Brian Dufresne, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass





# MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE

PARTNERSHIPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY  
ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

# PROVIDING TRAUMA INFORMED LEGAL SERVICE FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF THE OPIOID CRISIS.

Our KY Kids Rise Project seeks to stabilize families caring for children affected by the drug abuse epidemic, and to mitigate the negative financial, legal, and educational impacts of drug abuse.



# TEAM

The KY Kids Rise Project connects caretakers of children affected by the drug abuse epidemic with legal advocates and case management services. The team utilizes a trauma informed treatment team approach to work towards removing barriers to family stability.



# TYPES OF CASES

Access to Subsidized Housing

Child Custody

Educational Advocacy

Eviction & Foreclosure Defense

Financial Assistant for Child Care

Grandparents Rights

Guardianship Proceedings

Public Benefits & Health Insurance Applications & Appeals

School Enrollment

Social Security & SSI Disability

Visitation Rights





# PARTNERSHIPS

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

HOSPITALS



# PARTNERSHIPS

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY COUNCILS

SAFETY NET ALLIANCE/ RE-ENTRY ALLIANCE



# THANK YOU!



[KYKIDSRISE@LABLAW.ORG](mailto:KYKIDSRISE@LABLAW.ORG)



[HTTPS://LABLAW.ORG/KENTUCKY-KIDS-RISE](https://lablaw.org/kentucky-kids-rise)

# PRO TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

PEOPLE'S STATED NEEDS V.  
ACTUAL NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT

CONNECTING WITH URBAN V.  
RURAL POPULATIONS IS DIFFERENT

BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS IS KEY,  
SUSTAINING THEM IS ESSENTIAL

NEW LEGAL NEEDS/POTENTIAL AREAS  
OF PRACTICE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED



# Medical-legal partnership

**James Conway**, Washoe Legal Services



A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Click the logo to learn about the organization





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# Medical Legal Partnerships: An effective model for responding to the opioid crisis

James P. Conway  
Executive Director  
Washoe Legal Services

# What we will address



1. What is a Medical Legal Partnership (“MLP”)
2. Background of the WLS/HOPES MLP
3. How an MLP can address Legal Issues ancillary to SUDs



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# What is a Medical Legal Partnership?

- ▶ MLPs “integrate the unique expertise of lawyers into health care settings to help clinicians, case managers, and social workers address structural problems at the root of so many health inequities.” – National Center for Medical Legal Partnership
- ▶ **Key concept**: Improve social conditions in order to improve health outcomes, which, in turn, will reduce overall healthcare costs
- ▶ 333 MLPs in 46 states
- ▶ [www.medical-legalpartnership.org](http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org)
- ▶ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/medicallegal>



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# Washoe Legal Services

- ▶ Main office is in Reno (Washoe County) Nevada
- ▶ 36 total staff (22 attorneys)
- ▶ Serve over 9,000 people per year
  - Child Advocacy (Court-Appointed Children's Counsel in Dependency Cases)
  - Adult Guardianship
  - Victim Advocacy
  - Immigration
  - Self-Help
  - Center for Seniors & the Law
  - General Consumer/Housing
  - Medical Legal Partnership
- ▶ Funding (\$3.2 million budget)
  - No LSC Funding
  - Primary Sources: **BOA Foreclosure Settlement Funds**; IOLTA; Court & County Recorder Filing Fees; VAWA; VOCA; LAV; OAA; Nevada AG; County Contracts



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# Our MLP Partner:



- ▶ Founded in 1997 With a Focus on HIV Care
- ▶ Now is a Comprehensive Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
  - Primary Care; Pediatrics, Pharmacy; Behavioral Health; Case Management; Team-Based, Patient-Centered Approach
- ▶ 10,199 Total Patients (61,238 Patient Visits) in 2018
  - 58% Below 200% FPL
  - 19% Experiencing Homelessness
  - 799 Engaged in HIV Treatment
  - 3,923 Engaged in Case Management
  - 2,291 Patients in SUD Counseling
  - Over 1 Million Needles Returned/Distributed
- ▶ Integrative Services: “At HOPES, we provide a variety of services at one location because – not only does it improve the health of our patients – it is smart, sustainable, and effective.”
- ▶ **Key concept**: Identifying the right partner is crucial to an MLP’s success

# Timeline of Our MLP

Started discussions in early 2016

Applied for funding from Nevada Bar Foundation in late 2016 (BOA Settlement “Community Development” Funds)

Awarded a three-year grant in January 2017

Grant funded two full-time positions (WLS Staff Atty. & HOPES Program Coord.)

Hired attorney April 2017; HOPES Program Coordinator May 2017

“Tinkered” with program as we progressed

Our MLP model – MLP attorney on-site; direct referrals via the EMR; MLP staff are part of a multidisciplinary team delivering care; MLP attorney may assist client directly or refer to another WLS program; most referrals come from case management.



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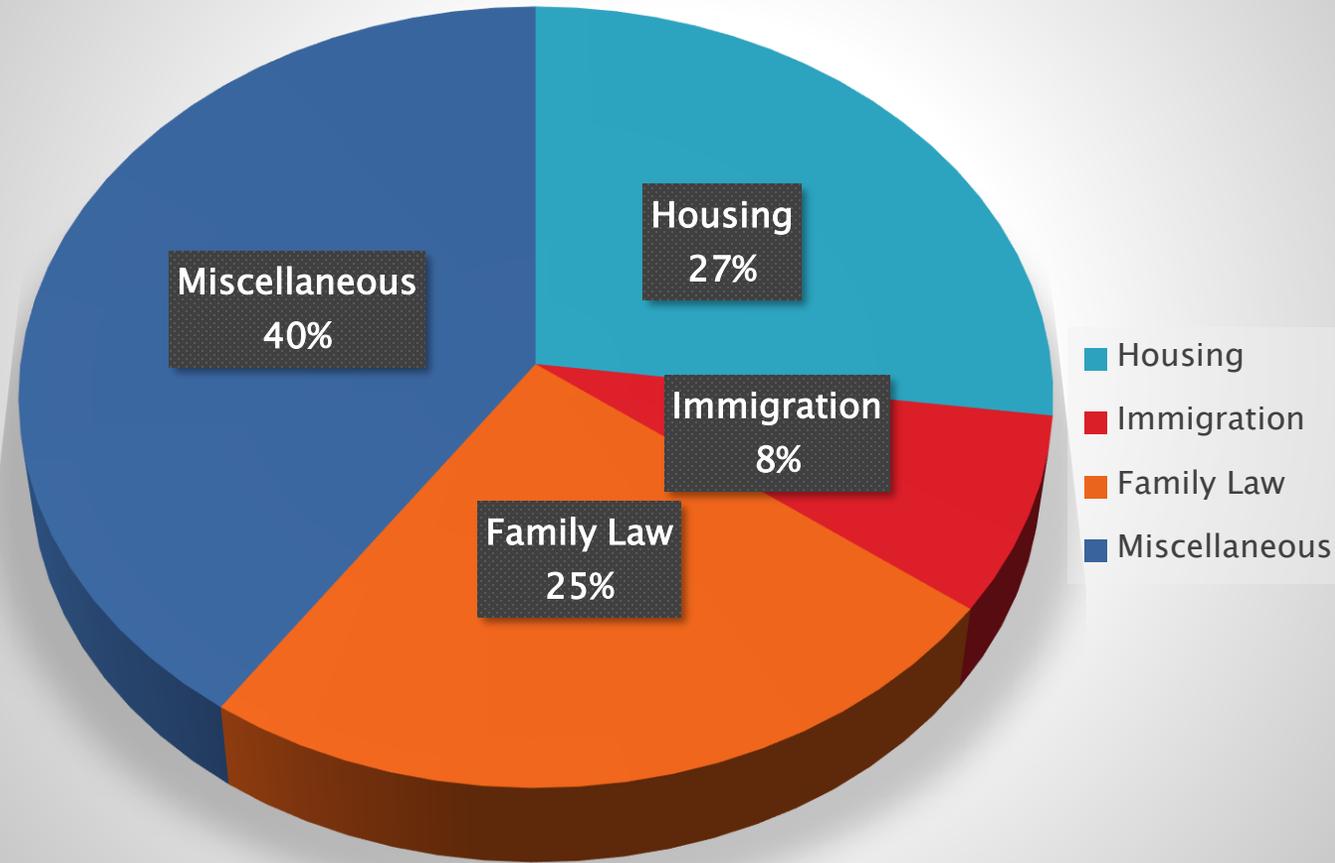
# MLP by the Numbers (April 2017 to Nov. 2019)

- ▶ 369 Total WLS Cases (Legal Information; Counsel & Advice; or Representation); 586 referrals (Not all referrals became MLP cases)
- ▶ Over 100 Housing Cases (Evictions, Habitability & Public Housing Denials/Revocations)
- ▶ Approximately 90 Family Law Cases (Custody, Divorce, Guardianship, and TPOs)
- ▶ 30 Immigration Cases
- ▶ Misc. Other: Record Sealing (Housing); Debt Collection; Insurance Issues; Name Changes (LGBTQ Patient Population); Public Benefits.
- ▶ Approximately 17% of Clients Have an SUD Diagnosis
- ▶ **Key Concept**: These clients didn't come to us; We came to them.



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## Case Breakdown



## Clinics

- ▶ Not included as “Cases”
- ▶ POA Clinics: 8 this year, 50+ attendees
- ▶ 21 Other Clinics, 405 attendees
- ▶ CLE Presentation, 40 attendees

# *Case Studies*

Jill: Grandmother of an 11 year-old HOPES pediatric patient; bio mom actively using heroin and whereabouts unknown; bio dad living in a weekly motel; WLS petitions for minor guardianship and then transfers case to pro bono counsel.

Dave: HOPES Patient; HIV Positive; Chronically Homeless; Schizophrenia; Challenges with Obtaining and Maintaining Stable Housing; WLS successfully appeals public housing denial based upon a criminal conviction.

Rachel: HOPES Patient; Mental Health and SUD Diagnoses (in Recovery); Victim of Stalking; WLS successfully defends an attempted eviction for nuisance (contact with police).



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# Lessons Learned

- Housing is healthcare (20 year difference in life expectancy in homeless population)
- Evaluating program efficacy is challenging
  - Transient, vulnerable population; difficult to follow-up
  - Selecting an objective outcome (hospitalizations, AC1, relapses (SUDs), “no-show” rate, etc.)
  - No good control group
  - No direct correlation/causation to legal intervention
- But anecdotally... MLPs work
  - “I don’t know it for a fact. I just know it’s true” –Bill Maher
- MLPs reduce barriers to receiving legal services (no wrong door)
  - All too often, the clients who need the most help are the least likely to receive it
- Person-centered, integrative care and MLPs are a natural fit (lawyers do what case managers cannot)



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**James Conway**  
**Executive Director**  
**[jconway@washoelegalservices.org](mailto:jconway@washoelegalservices.org)**

Thank you!

# Q & A

# Wait! Before you go...

- Do you like NLADA and The Justice in Government Project? Help us better meet your needs! Fill out our survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/nladajgpsurvey>
- Want curated research in your inbox every month? Sign up for our newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/justresearchsignup>
- Access past issues: <https://legalaidresources.org/making-your-case/>
- **Seeking technical assistance? Reach us at [resourcedesk@nlada.org](mailto:resourcedesk@nlada.org)**

# Links

## Previous webinar: Research & funding

1. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2016/NSDUH-FFR1-2016.htm>
2. [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/aatod\\_2018\\_final.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/aatod_2018_final.pdf)
3. <https://www.psychiatry.org/newsroom/apa-public-opinion-poll-annual-meeting-2018>
4. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/The%20Underestimated%20Cost%20of%20the%20Opioid%20Crisis.pdf>
5. <http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/IPV-SAB-Final202.29.1620NO20LOGO-1.pdf>
6. <https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Substance-Abuse-and-Homelessness.pdf>

7. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22152496>

## Previous webinar: Research & Funding #2

1. <https://legalaidresources.org/2019/08/15/hud-resident-opportunity-self-sufficiency-2019/>
2. <https://legalaidresources.org/2018/06/21/doj-office-for-victims-of-crime-enhancing-community-responses-to-the-opioid-crisis-serving-our-youngest-crime-victims-fy-2018/>
3. <https://legalaidresources.org/2019/03/22/hhs-health-resources-services-administration-hrsa-rural-communities-opioid-response-program-implementation-fy-2019/>
4. <https://legalaidresources.org/2019/08/19/hhs-opioid-family-support-program-forecast-nov-2019/>