**HEADLINE DC**

**MARCH 15, 2020**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP DECLARES NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY TO MOBILIZE UP TO $50 BILLION IN FUNDING**

**HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS**

- **Trump Administration to Expand Coronavirus Testing; FDA Approves Automated Test** | In attempts to address the lack of COVID-19 testing availability in the US, the Trump administration has indicated plans to work with private companies (such as Walmart and CVS) to set up drive-through testing sites that provide rapid results in 24-36 hours without a prescription. At the same time, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted emergency approval for an automated coronavirus test to a Swiss diagnostics company, which claims it can increase testing tenfold.

- **WHO Provides Mental Health Strategies for Coping with COVID-19 Outbreak** | In response to the global mental health toll the COVID-19 outbreak may be taking on individuals, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Mental Health Department has released guidance for healthcare workers, people caring for children and the elderly, and people in isolation on ways to manage stress and improve overall psychological well-being during the outbreak. [Read more](#)

- **A Real-Time Tool for Mapping the COVID-19 Outbreak** | The Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Systems Science and Engineering has developed an interactive, web-based dashboard to visualize and track reported cases of COVID-19 in real time. This user-friendly dashboard displays the number of confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries for affected countries in order to facilitate tracking of the virus by public health authorities and the general public. [Read more](#)

**AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- **CDC Guidance on Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19** | The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has developed a page of online resources on how to mitigate fear, anxiety and stress surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, including information for individuals, parents, responders and people released from quarantine. [Learn more](#)

- **SAMHSA Guidance: Behavioral Health Care During and Infectious Disease Outbreak** | The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) has two relevant factsheets available that pertain to the COVID-19 outbreak: *Coping with Stress During an Infectious Disease Outbreak* and *Tips for Social Distancing Quarantine, and Isolation*. [Learn more](#)

- **SAMHSA Webinar: SOAR and Criminal Justice System Implementation** | This webinar will highlight the connection between serious mental illness (SMI), homelessness and incarceration, as well as best practices for increasing access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for people with SMI who are reentering the community from jails and prisons (the SOAR model). *Weds, March 25, 3-4:30pm ET*. [Learn more](#)

- **SAMHSA Webinar: Services for Justice-Involved Individuals with SUD** | This virtual roundtable from SAMHSA’s GAINS Center will discuss effective collaboration through the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) to increase services for justice-involved individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. *Thurs, April 30, 2:30-4pm ET*. [Learn more](#)

- **Funding Opportunity: Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders** | The US Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking to award 14 grants totaling more than $13M geared towards enhancing the ability of corrections systems to address the substance use treatment needs of incarcerated individuals in order to reduce recidivism, promote recovery and improve public safety and health. *Deadline: Mon, April 27*. [Learn more](#)

**ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING**

- **NACo Resources for Counties on COVID-19 Response** | The National Association of Counties (NACo) has compiled a list of online resources to support county efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak, including nearly a dozen pages from the CDC ranging from case tracking to health department information to communication messaging, and a 10-page guide on implementing mitigation strategies for communities with local COVID-19 transmission. [Learn more](#)

- **NACo-NSA Joint Task Force Report Addresses Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy** | NACo and the National Sheriff’s Association (NSA) have formed a joint task force to address the challenges posed by the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MEIP), which denies or revokes federal health and other benefits from individuals in jail prior to conviction for a crime. Includes recommendations for government entities, best practices in jail health care and more. [Learn more](#)