



Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts

Drug Courts Work – They Transform Lives

July 25, 2018

Ed Rajsteter, President
Cheryle Pacapelli, 1st Vice President
Linda Saunders Paquette, 2nd Vice President
Edward O'Reilly, Treasurer
Nancy Russell, Secretary

Jeffrey A. Meyers, Commissioner
Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH, 03301

Re: State Opioid Response Grant

Dear Commissioner Meyers,

As the Friends of the New Hampshire Drug Courts (“the Friends”), we are heartened to see that our federal government now recognizes the need for state assistance for overcoming our opioid crisis and is taking action by providing grant funding to states.

We believe our 501(c)(3) organization can effectively help distribute some of these funds through our activities, guided by our mission and vision. The Friends actively supports NH Drug Court participants by providing grants and loans that will alleviate barriers to success such as affordable safe housing and other living expenses. We also cover costs of incentive programs for Drug Court participants, while educating communities and raising awareness of the value of the New Hampshire Drug Courts. We work collaboratively with each Drug Court team to share information and best practices to promote outcomes that benefit participants. Even though we are not direct treatment providers, we work with the drug court teams to ensure participants can afford treatment by covering costs of day-to-day living.

To our knowledge, the Friends is the only 501(c)(3) organization of its kind across the United States, and could become a model for others. We understand that a small percentage of the SOR grant funds are allocated to administration. Currently an all-volunteer organization, the Friends looks to establish an administrative staff within our organization that will create a high performance environment in which to grow.

The Friends of the New Hampshire Drug Courts sincerely appreciates the opportunity to have input into the uses of the grant funding. Please contact us at the address below with any questions or thoughts.

Sincerely

/s/Ed Rajsteter
President, Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts

PO Box 326, North Haverhill, NH 03774

Email – info@friendsofnhdrugcourts.org. Website – www.friendsofnhdrugcourts.org

The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization