

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey
1675 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Suite 205, Hamilton, NJ 08619

CONTACT: Daniel Meara
609.689.0121 x 102
dmeara@ncaddnj.org

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey responds to \$10 million syringe access drug treatment appropriation

TRENTON ... (October 4, 2004) – At the request of New Jersey General Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Roberts, the Assembly Appropriations Committee amended A-3256, which permits the establishment of sterile syringe access programs in New Jersey, to include a \$10 million dollar appropriation for drug treatment.

Throughout the syringe access debate, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) – New Jersey has been a leading advocate in the state for appropriating addiction treatment funds that would be available for syringe exchange program participants who request treatment for their addiction.

John Hulick, director of Public Affairs and Policy for NCADD – New Jersey, responded to the Leader’s announcement: “Today, New Jersey built a true bridge to addiction treatment for participants of syringe access programs who request treatment for their addiction. The state Legislature, by appropriating drug treatment dollars, has ensured access to addiction treatment for program participants. This is certainly heartening news because, in addition to HIV/AIDS, another progressive, chronic, and potentially fatal disease – addiction – now has the chance of being addressed for the intravenous drug user.”

Hulick noted that, until this appropriation, the likelihood of ensuring the availability of drug treatment services for a syringe exchange participant was no small matter in light of the 2001 Department of Health and Senior Services Addiction Treatment Task Force Report finding that one-in-two adults (71,000 adults) could not access treatment due to limited addiction treatment capacity in New Jersey.

NCADD-NJ has dedicated itself for more than 20 years to educating New Jersey’s citizens about alcohol and drug use issues, to advocating on state policies concerning individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and to reducing the stigma that frustrates a public health approach to the disease of addiction.

###