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Sen. Shelby announces \$4 Million in critical opioid treatment funds for Alabama community health centers

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) Thursday announced that 15 community health centers across the state have received a total of \$4,038,000 in critical federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support increased treatment and prevention for opioid and substance abuse.

“It is of the utmost importance that we work to fund the fight against the national opioid crisis,” Shelby said in a statement (<https://www.shelby.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ID=85B5604A-340A-4F7D-A265-E9D73E4E2626>)

“Nearly every county in Alabama is affected by this growing problem. These HHS grants will allow community health centers across the state to provide treatment to patients with opioid and substance abuse and support addiction prevention programs, helping our communities tackle this widespread epidemic,” he added.

This type of HHS grant supports health centers across the nation in implementing and advancing evidence-based strategies that best meet the substance use disorder and mental health needs of the populations they serve.

The following 15 community health centers in Alabama will receive the announced funding:

- Bayou La Batre Area Health Development Board, Inc., Bayou La Batre – \$285,000
- Christ Health Center, Inc., Birmingham – \$285,000
- Alabama Regional Medical Services, Birmingham – \$285,000
- Aletheia House, Inc., Birmingham – \$201,750
- Cahaba Medical Care Foundation, Centreville – \$296,000
- Quality of Life Services, Inc., Gadsden – \$293,000
- Central North Alabama Health, Huntsville – \$285,000
- Health Services, Inc., Montgomery – \$285,000
- Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc., Mobile – \$285,000
- Mobile County Health Department, Mobile – \$285,000
- Capstone Rural Health Center, Parrish – \$287,250
- Rural Health Medical Program, Inc., Selma – \$285,000
- Northeast Alabama Health Services, Inc., Scottsboro – \$110,000
- S.E. Alabama Rural Health Associates, Troy – \$285,000
- Whatley Health Services, Inc., Tuscaloosa – \$285,000

Earlier this week, Shelby voted to pass “The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018,” which was a bipartisan effort of over 70 senators that includes proposals from the Senate Committees on: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Finance; Judiciary; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

This legislation would reportedly improve detection of illegal drugs at the border, increase the sharing of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs data between states and aim to reduce the use and supply of dangerous drugs.

Sean Ross is a staff writer for Yellowhammer News. You can follow him on Twitter @sean_yhn (https://twitter.com/sean_yhn)

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Poarch Creek Indians' Robbie McGhee: We don't mind supporting a lottery 'if it is something good for the state of Alabama'

The possibility of a lottery in Alabama's future is something that has been put forth by both gubernatorial candidates, incumbent Republican Gov. Kay Ivey and Democratic nominee Tuscaloosa Walt Maddox in recent weeks. In an interview that aired on Huntsville's WHNT on Friday, State House Speaker Mac McCutcheon (R-Monrovia) has

gone as far as

predicting (<https://yellowhammernews.com/al-house-speaker-mac-mccutcheon-can-say-for-sure-that-youll-see-a-lottery-bill-in-2019/>)

the legislature would take up lottery bill during the 2019 session.

Given that, it is looking more likely voters may have an opportunity to vote up or down on a lottery for Alabama. One place that it appears less likely a lottery would run into opposition is from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PCI), which operate three casinos in Alabama.

In an interview that aired on Alabama Public Television's "Capitol Journal" on Friday, PCI's governmental relations advisor Robbie McGhee indicated his tribe would not oppose a lottery given this renewed interest in it.

"It is something we have spoken to in the past that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians doesn't have a problem with the lottery," McGhee said.

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Anniston Star chair, publisher Josephine Ayers gave 4 times to Democratic Congressional

Campaign Committee during 2018 cycle

A reoccurring theme within Anniston Star editorials and from its editorial staff on social media (<https://twitter.com/ThePhillipTutor/status/1042795786696835073>) as of late has been to protest Rep. Mike Rogers' (R-Saks) unwillingness to sit down with the paper's editorial board.

Phillip Tutor, the commentary editor of the Star, has argued for Rogers to come to the editorial board and "to talk with him and hear his views on important things."

According to Rogers, he has declined those invitations because of what he indicated was coming to a hostile atmosphere where there was little to gain.

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2 hours ago

Steve Marshall partners with White House to recognize ICE & border patrol agents

While ICE & CBP agents are defending themselves against partisan political rhetoric from the left, Attorney General Steve Marshall is working to highlight the important role they play in defending the rule of law and thus, securing our borders.

Last month, Marshall accepted an invitation to speak on a select White House Panel discussion on border security and how border crime and illegal immigration affect the citizens of Alabama.

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Krispy Kreme offering coffee-glazed doughnuts this week only: Here's where you can get them in Alabama

Krispy Kreme will offer (<https://www.krispykreme.com/coffeeglaze>) their new “Coffee Glazed” doughnut and “Original Glazed” flavored coffee starting Monday, and 13 Alabama locations will participate.

While the new coffee will become a permanent fixture on the menu, the coffee-glazed doughnuts will only be available through Sunday.

In addition to enjoying both new products throughout the week, Alabamians can grab a free Krispy Kreme coffee, of any size, on National Coffee Day – Saturday, September 29 – at participating locations, with no purchase necessary. Krispy Kreme Rewards (<https://www.krispykreme.com/account/create-account>) members receive the extra perk of a free doughnut with their coffee on that day.

Here are the participating locations:

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AL House Speaker Mac McCutcheon 'can say for sure that you'll see a lottery bill' in 2019

With Mississippi

recently (<https://yellowhammernews.com/will-biloxi-sports-betting-hurt-alabama-athletics/>)

adding sports betting to its legal gambling options, the pressure (<https://yellowhammernews.com/should-alabama-bet-on-sports-betting/>) is on for Alabama to not only follow that lead, but to institute a state lottery as well.

While one prominent Republican state lawmaker already has predicted (<https://yellowhammernews.com/alabama-legislator-predicts-sports-betting-bill-will-be-considered-in-2019/>)

a sports gaming bill will be considered by the Alabama Legislature in 2019 yet be a long-shot to pass, Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon (R-Monrovia) told

WHNT (<https://whnt.com/2018/09/21/alabama-house-speaker-says-legislature-will-take-up-lottery-bill-in-2019/>)

that a lottery bill will definitely be on their agenda. However, its fate will be determined by the specifics of that now-hypothetical bill.

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