In July 2016, 46 of the nation’s governors signed a Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction, marking the first time in more than 10 years that governors developed a compact through the National Governors Association (NGA) to spur coordinated action on an urgent national issue. Governors who signed on to the compact committed to redoubling their efforts by taking new steps to:

- Reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing;
- Change the nation’s understanding of opioids and addiction; and
- Ensure a pathway to recovery for individuals with addiction.

One year after signing the compact, governors continue to take bold steps to prevent opioid addiction, save lives and lead the nation in addressing the opioid crisis. Below is a summary of the themes that have emerged from governors’ efforts during the last year. More detailed information can be found on NGA’s website.
Governors are leading efforts to raise awareness about the risks of opioids, address the stigma of addiction and increase the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Governors reported a variety of actions, including the following:

- Using their annual State of the State addresses, press conferences and social media platforms to highlight the problem, reduce stigma and bring attention to new programs.
- Issuing emergency declarations and executive orders to provide new resources and flexibility to respond to the crisis.
- Developing communications campaigns as well as targeted resources and curricula for teens, parents, criminal justice professionals and health care providers.
- Working with pharmacies to educate consumers receiving opioid and naloxone prescriptions, and increasing awareness around drug take-back programs.

Governors are working to stem the tide of overdose deaths by expanding access to the life-saving overdose reversal drug naloxone and ensuring a pathway to treatment and recovery for those struggling with addiction. Governors reported a variety of actions, including the following:

- Making naloxone more readily available through first responders and standing orders at pharmacies, and connecting individuals to treatment and recovery services following an overdose or arrest.
- Increasing the number of MAT providers and requiring public and private insurance coverage of MAT.
- Expanding treatment for populations that have been disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis, such as mothers and babies, rural communities and justice-involved populations.
- Investing in counseling and recovery service providers, such as peer providers who are in recovery themselves and are trained to help those struggling with addiction in their path to recovery.