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For Immediate Release  
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**California Significantly Expands Medication Take-Back Bin Network**  
*CA Drug Take-Back Program Expanded the Statewide Network  
of Safe Med Disposal Bins for Free Public Use*

(Sacramento) – The California [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#) and the [California Product Stewardship Council \(CPSC\)](#), working through State Opioid Response (SOR) grant issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), completed installation of approximately 250 safe medication disposal bins (med bins) across California, expanding the statewide network of med bins for the public to use for free. The med bins provide safe disposal of unwanted, unneeded, and/or expired medication and were provided as part of the federal grant-funded California Drug Take-Back Program (Program). The program ended in March of 2021.

The Program, which helps in keeping California communities safe from the harmful effects of opioids and other prescription drugs, includes detailed publications explaining how the public can use the med bins, a comprehensive [med bin locator map](#), and education around the benefits of using the med bins, such as:

- a convenient, safe, and anonymous disposal option for unused or expired medications;
- providing an alternative to stockpiling medications at home, as stockpiling can lead to accidental overdose by children, family, or visitors;
- helping prevent discarded drugs from being taken out of the trash or medication cabinets by others, which can lead to illegal drug use or sale;
- a reduction of problematic disposal methods, such as flushing medication down the toilet, which endangers the environment and can lead to pollution of our waterways (streams, rivers, and lakes) as wastewater treatment plants cannot completely remove drugs from wastewater; and
- complete destruction of medications through thermal combustion at waste-to-energy plants.

“Due to the ongoing pandemic, this expansion of the med bin program couldn’t be more timely. Unused medications that are not disposed of properly can cause a myriad of serious public safety concerns,” said CPSC Executive Director Doug Kobold. “Fortunately, the network of med bins in California helps to solve issues related to the opioid crisis and, more particularly, a lack of safe and convenient disposal options. With the addition of these nearly 250 new med bins throughout the state, consumers are afforded more convenience within their own communities when they want to dispose of their unwanted meds.”

The Program was funded by a \$3 million grant from DHCS through the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, which in turn was funded by SAMHSA under the SOR grant. The Program grant was part of a larger \$140 million funding allotment from the federal government with the purpose of funding a wide variety of programs aimed at combating the opioid crisis across the state.



***This is a picture of the year-round bins provided free-of-charge to California Drug Take-Back Program participants.***

***Photo courtesy of California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and available for use by media outlets.***

*CPSC developed and administered the California Drug Take-Back Program to promote safe medication disposal and prevent the flushing and trashing of unwanted medications. CPSC's mission is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability. The California Drug Take-Back Program aligns with our mission by preparing locations for the producer-funded take-back program coming in 2022.*

Please visit <https://www.calpsc.org> for more information.

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