

NEW JERSEY

USE OF STR/SOR GRANT FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

Background on opioid-specific grants to States

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. These grants aim to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) in the States. States received a total of \$500 million for each of FY 2017 and FY 2018 through STR. Additionally, in FY 2018, States received an additional \$1 billion in new funding to States through the SOR grants. In FY 2019, States are receiving \$1.5 billion through SOR. Eligible applicants for both STR and SOR are the State alcohol and drug agencies.

Allocations for New Jersey

New Jersey received \$12.9 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$21.6 million through SOR in FY 2019. In FY 2019, New Jersey received a total of \$32.8 million through SOR.

Overview of New Jersey's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The goal of the New Jersey State Targeted Opioid Response Initiative (NJ STORI) and New Jersey State Opioid Response (NJ SOR) is to address the State's opioid crisis by providing treatment, family and peer recovery support, community education programs and training. The key objectives of funding are to increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid-related deaths.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

New Jersey's efforts to prevent opioid misuse with STR/SOR funds include:

Opioid Response Options (ORO): To reduce opioid utilization, funding has been made available to hospitals to develop and implement a program to reduce the use of opioids in Emergency Departments (EDs) and the subsequent prescribing of opioids at ED discharge. A learning community is being developed, and continuous quality improvement is a key focus of the initiative.

Health Care Professionals Training: With support from the Department, the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine established an Opioid Education for Healthcare Professionals training

series to provide a standardized, evidence-based opiate addiction prevention curriculum that aligns with federal and State guidelines. Training topics include best practices for prescribing opioids, pain management and the non-opioid management of pain as well as an overview of MAT. It is available to Primary Care Physicians, Emergency Department Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants, Substance Use Disorder treatment providers, Federally Qualified Health Center providers and other practitioners deemed appropriate by the provider.

Prevention for Older Adults: The Department is funding educational community programs for older adults (age 60+) on alternatives to opioid analgesics as a means of managing acute or chronic pain. The Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) curriculum is being utilized. Using STR funding, 103 trainings have been conducted, and 3,900 older adults were trained as of June 30, 2019. Of training participants, 46% reported being very likely to use alternatives to pain management (N=511).

Campaign on the Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on New Jersey's Aging Population:

Provides nurses, doctors, dentists and other prescribers serving older patients with CMEs/CEUs for an accredited webinar on safe prescribing of opioids. Creates a public-service multi-media campaign targeting the aging population. Hosts statewide conference to educate public health officers, senior associations, offices on aging, and prevention and treatment professionals on impact of opioids on aging population.

Increasing access to treatment

New Jersey's efforts to increase access to treatment, especially MAT, with STR/SOR funds include:

Expanded Treatment Options: STORI is a fee-for-service initiative added to the State-based treatment network including the following SUD treatment services for individuals with OUD: assessment, inpatient and ambulatory withdrawal management, short term residential, outpatient and intensive outpatient, case management, and medication. From May 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019, the STORI FFS Treatment Network has served over 3,000 individuals with 1,579 receiving MAT.

County Correction Facilities MAT Program/Re-entry Services: Establish MAT programs or enhance existing MAT services for inmates with OUD at county correctional facilities. MAT initiation and connection to community-based MAT for maintenance. Case managers at county jails will conduct intake assessments and establish pre-release plans for needed services in the community.

Low-Intensity Buprenorphine Induction: Mobile advanced practice nurse (APN) and case manager implementing a "low threshold" buprenorphine induction program at two NJ Syringe Access Programs (SAPs).

DATA Waiver Training: Supporting Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver training for eligible statewide practitioners (e.g., physicians, APNs and physician assistants). More than 400 practitioners trained to date.

Supporting Community Providers in SUD Care (Project Echo): In November 2018, DMHAS successfully launched an Academic Medical Center Project Extension Community Healthcare Outcomes ECHO Hub with Rutgers University Medical School, with 38 primary care practitioners participating. Project ECHO is a web-based video collaboration that links a multi-disciplinary team of specialists with primary care providers in the field, training the providers through peer-led case presentations and expert-led 15-minute didactics on the Recognition and Management of Substance Use Disorder in Primary Care. Each session provides 1 no-charge CME credit.

Ambulatory Treatment Services, Including MAT: DMHAS will partner with Rutgers University and Rowan University to provide ambulatory treatment services for individuals with an OUD, to include medication costs.

Buprenorphine Medical Support: Supports the development of medical capacity to provide MAT to eligible individuals at licensed SUD treatment agencies.

Campaign to Increase MAT Awareness and Access: Development of public awareness campaign to help eliminate stigma/ discrimination around use of MAT.

MAT Expansion Training: Train-the-trainer program on MAT, the opioid crisis specific to NJ, and concepts of OUD for graduate students. The goal of this project is to educate, support, and mentor graduate students to give free educational talks to the community.

Recovery Specialist Training: Peer training design and curriculum development to provide a State infrastructure of effective trainers and volunteers. Coursework can be applied towards obtaining NJ recognized peer certification.

First Responders Training: Training to educate emergency medical services (EMS) providers in the importance of getting patients to recovery, give them tools to assist, and promote available recovery resources.

Volunteers in Law Enforcement Training: Peer training for volunteers in the Law Enforcement Addiction Assisted Recovery and Referral Program (LEAARRP). NJ passed legislation to provide amnesty for individuals who seek alcohol and drug counseling at police departments. By utilizing the police department as a “safe haven”, individuals that use substances may be more inclined to accept treatment as an alternative option. Volunteers/peers are a critical part of this program to help navigate recovery options and facilitate the individual's immediate transfer to a treatment facility.

Best Practices Training: Training, coaching, rating-based feedback and other educational and supervisory interventions to assist agencies in delivering evidence-based practice (EBP) modalities.

Community Education - Opioid Summit: Summit in September 2019 addressing discrimination and misinformation surrounding opioid addiction and enhancing understanding of treatment options, especially the use of MAT.

Distribution of NJ-specific American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Educational

Tools: Distribute the ASAM “Opioid Addiction Patient Guideline” to community organizations and those serving at-risk populations. The patient guide is tailored to NJ-specific resources and includes information on assessment, treatment, MAT, and information on treatment providers and community support groups.

Telehealth: Providing funding for agencies to purchase telehealth equipment.

Professional Development Initiative: Placement, tracking, credentialing assistance, mentoring, and supervision to assist substance use disorder (SUD) treatment agencies in increasing and strengthening their workforce for treating individuals.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

New Jersey's overdose reversal efforts that are funded by STR/SOR include:

- Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs (OOPPs): NJ's three regional OOPPs provide training and naloxone kits to individuals at risk of an opioid overdose, their families, friends and loved ones. The OOPP target group has been expanded to include the Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service teams, fire departments, homeless shelters, community health clinics, school districts, jails, and SUD treatment programs.
- Opioid Overdose Outreach Response Teams (OORT): Outreach teams to be developed in high need counties where individuals who are reversed with naloxone refuse transport to the ED.
- Naloxone kits distribution through NJ's seven Harm Reduction Centers.
- Arming police, EDs and EMS with treatment information that they can provide to individuals reversed from an opioid overdose.
- Naloxone training and naloxone kits for recovery specialists and first responders provided to be distributed in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Supporting recovery

New Jersey's recovery support services that are funded by STR/SOR include:

Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP): Recovery Specialists and Patient Navigators provide non-clinical assistance, recovery support, and appropriate referrals for assessment for SUD treatment for individuals reversed from an opioid overdose and treated at hospital emergency departments.

Support Team for Addiction Recovery (STAR): Case management services and recovery support for individuals with OUD and at risk for opioid overdose. Ten STAR programs will provide services for individuals released from jail with an OUD.

Telephone Recovery Support: Weekly phone calls by trained staff and volunteers who provide support, encouragement and information on recovery resources to individuals

discharged from SUD treatment with an OUD and those trying to maintain recovery from an OUD.

Family Support Center: Three regional Family Support Centers offer support, education, resources and advocacy for families of individuals with OUD. Each regional center is staffed with Family Support Coordinators with lived experiences trained in the Community Reinforcement Approach and Family Training (CRAFT) model.

Community Peer Recovery Centers: Small-scale recovery centers provide peer- to-peer recovery support services to prevent recurrence of substance use and promote sustained recovery.

Recovery Specialist /Clinician Training: Peer training design and curriculum development to provide a State infrastructure of effective trainers and volunteers.

Collegiate Recovery: Two- or four-year public institutions of higher education to provide supportive, substance-free living environments and/or recovery support services for college students in recovery.

Recovery Data Platform: Development of a cloud-based anytime, anywhere software comprised of real time data and several evidence-based assessment tools that have the ability to assess wellness with a quick swipe, or complete a detailed interview from a computer, tablet or phone. The platform is intended to easily track, manage and analyze recovery data.

Collaborating with local entities

DMHAS will also use SOR funding to collaborate with NJ counties to establish MAT programs, or enhance existing MAT services, for inmates with OUD at county correctional facilities. In addition, DMHAS will work with county correctional facilities to establish justice involved re-entry services for detainees, where case managers at county jails will conduct intake assessments and establish pre-release plans for needed services in the community.

Positive outcomes

- More than 1,500 people have received MAT opioid use disorder treatment.
- More than 3,000 naloxone opioid overdose reversal kits have been distributed.
- In NJ, over two and half years, more than 13,000 individuals were reversed from an opioid overdose and were taken to a participating hospital emergency department, more than 2,000 occurred during the SAMHSA investment.
- More than 600 individuals have been served post-opioid reversal hospitalization with intensive case management, peer support and other recovery services to support their stable housing, employment and avoidance of relapse.
- An additional 600 individuals have received ongoing telephone recovery support including more than 4,000 outbound calls from recovery support teams.

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