

NEW MEXICO

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 through the SOR grants. In FY 2019, States received \$1.5 billion through SOR. Eligible applicants for both STR and SOR are the State alcohol and drug agencies.

Allocations for New Mexico

New Mexico received \$4.7 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$5.3 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, New Mexico received a total of \$8 million through SOR.

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

The overall goals for both STR and SOR is to address the OUD crisis by reducing morbidity and mortality associated with OUD. Specifically, the goals are to:

- Increase the number of people who receive treatment services for OUD
- Increase the number of persons that receive recovery services for OUD
- Increase number of providers offering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for OUD
- Increase number of persons trained to prevent, treat, provide recovery support, and offer harm reduction services to those with OUD
- Decrease the rates of opioid overdose-related deaths and opioid use in New Mexico

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

PAX Good Behavior Game: The PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX GBG) is an evidence-based program with positive long-term outcomes including reduced need for special education services and reductions in substance misuse, among other outcomes. PAX GBG has been implemented widely in NM and is expanding under SOR funding.

A Dose of Reality: A Dose of Reality (ADOR) media campaign builds on existing media efforts that began under the NM Behavioral Health Services Division's (BHSD) Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Deaths (PDO) grant. ADOR, under STR, expands the social media focus and user-friendly website that provides information to the public about overdose prevention, naloxone use, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and combating stigma toward treatment of persons with OUD.

Increasing access to treatment

Collaborative Hubs Model: STR and SOR use the evidence-based "Hub & Spoke" model that facilitates a strong, coordinated and sustainable approach to the expansion of OUD related services. This model ensures that providers receive the same information and develop consistent language and processes as they develop skills in treatment, prevention and recovery support services for OUD. STR adapted this model to fit the landscape and resources of New Mexico and is referred to as the *Collaborative Hubs* model. The Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes model (ECHO) and the NMopioidhub.com website help to link providers statewide in the *Collaborative Hubs* model. Regional Hubs include collaborating health and addictions professionals who provide MAT, psychosocial interventions and recovery services.

Expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment for OUD: MAT trainings are being implemented, focusing on prescribing, treatment, and recovery.

- **DATA 2000 Waiver Training:** Offered statewide Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) 2000 Waiver trainings to provide the first 4 hours of required in-person education. This is provided monthly and includes in-person and Zoom®-based formats. Additional technical assistance is offered in person and via the MAT ECHO to provide detailed and ongoing support to providers expanding MAT for OUD services.
- **Safer Opioid Prescribing Trainings:** This five-hour in-person training helps health care providers learn about best practices in the use of opioids to treat pain including dangerous prescribing combinations, and expands provider awareness and skills in pain management using non-opioid pharmacological

approaches and non-pharmacological approaches. Additional technical assistance is offered to providers to support their skills in safer opioid prescribing and treatment of chronic pain.

- **MAT ECHO:** NM Opioid Hub is a co-sponsor of the MAT ECHO program, which provides weekly education, guidance, support, and consultation to all NM providers and staff in MAT for OUD including prescribing, psychosocial supports, community resources, and recovery. <https://echo.unm.edu/teleecho-programs/mat>
- **Psychosocial Supports:** Under STR, the NM Children, Youth, and Families Division (CYFD) provided statewide trainings on Motivational Interviewing, patient placement criteria, and the Community Reinforcement Approach (a psychosocial intervention). Under SOR, CYFD is providing comprehensive training to its staff in the Nurtured Heart Approach to positively impact CYFD's work with New Mexico's children and families. Additionally, SOR continues to provide trainings to support MAT expansion including Seeking Safety, Historical Trauma, American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria, and Certified Peer Support.

Special Populations: New Mexico is expanding their Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program to at least one new southern site. Efforts are currently underway to expand LEAD for new tribal sites. New Mexico is also in the second year of implementing a pilot program that provides MAT to incarcerated individuals in the San Miguel Detention Center with efforts underway to expand awareness of MAT across NM detention facilities and how to successfully implement in these settings.

Tribal summits and Learning Collaboratives are being held in partnership with the University of New Mexico's Honoring Native Life (HNL) program, Indian Health Service Albuquerque Area Office (IHS-AAO), and Native communities. These events focus on awareness of, community readiness and strategic planning to address opioid treatment in culturally and community congruent ways.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) within NM BHSD contracts with several training partners to offer opioid education and naloxone distribution to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

County Opioid Overdose Program (SF COOP): Santa Fe County Fire Department uses a social worker paired with an EMT to perform follow-up calls and site visits to overdose survivors identified through 911 calls and through the emergency

departments. They offer overdose prevention education, naloxone training and kits, health check-ups, and referrals to services (i.e., treatment, Medicaid, housing, etc.).

Law Enforcement Training International (LETI) provides 150 overdose prevention education and naloxone trainings to NM law enforcement agencies per year.

The Tribal Outreach Coordinator performs opioid outreach to New Mexico's 23 Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations. The coordinator provides naloxone resources and trainings, incorporating information relevant to primary prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery.

During both STR and SOR grant years, as of August 2019 there have been 73 reversals.

Supporting recovery

The Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW) Training has included enhancement of the existing CPSW training to address OUD and MAT and offering trainings statewide through the Office of Peer Engagement and Recovery (OPRE). As of August 2019, there have been 100 trained.

Positive outcomes

- 629 practitioners are DATA waived and 124 nurse practitioners and physician assistants are waived as of December 2018
- 6,171 patients prescribed buprenorphine for treatment of OUD as of December 2018
- 915 patients prescribed buprenorphine for treatment as of August 2019
- 6,258 patients were receiving methadone as of August 2018
- 589 patients were receiving methadone as of August 2019
- 218 patients were receiving naltrexone as of August 2019

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