

NEW YORK

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 York

New York received \$25.2 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$36.8 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, New York received a total of \$56 million through SOR.

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

Opioid STR funds are being used to add and enhance treatment services for people struggling with opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-need counties. These services include mobile treatment, telepractice capabilities, and the expansion of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Funds also support prevention and recovery programs throughout the State. These initiatives build upon New York State's multi-pronged approach to address the opioid crisis.

SOR funds are being used throughout the State to add to or enhance the prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery system. Efforts include, but are not limited to, increasing access to MAT through emergency departments, primary care clinics, and criminal justice settings; implementing evidence-based practices in school and other settings to build resilience factors and mitigate risk factors for youth; and, utilizing peers to connect individuals to needed services in any part of the treatment or recovery continuum.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

Families and Youth

- Prevention providers delivered the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program to families residing in New York City shelters and permanent supportive housing. Data collected showed increases in protective factors, including effective parent-child communication, positive family management practices, and supportive family involvement, all of which lead to reduced youth substance use. The Strengthening Families Program will also be implemented in the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Permanent Supportive Housing programs in Erie County.
- Prevention providers partnered with community organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, etc., to deliver prevention evidence-based practices (EBPs) to underserved, hard-to-reach youth. Pre- and post- surveys showed increases in protective factors and decreases in risk factors after completing the various EBPs. This included increases in peer pressure resistance skills, positive shifts in attitudes and perceptions surrounding drug use, and general increases in knowledge. Participants showed positive results across all age groups, including students from kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adults who participated in Parenting EBPs.
- Staff from 51 foster care agencies across the State screened 856 youth using CRAFFT and based on scores, referred 165 (19.3%) youth to the EBP Teen Intervene and 146 (17.1%) to treatment. That equals about 36% of the population scoring positive on the CRAFFT in the foster care settings. This demonstrates the need for the CRAFFT screener and referrals, as comparatively only 20-25% score positive in the general population.
- Through SOR, OASAS is funding prevention providers to implement the PAX Good Behavior Game in classrooms for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Special Populations

- Under STR, OASAS delivered a targeted media campaign to Native American communities, Latino communities, and pregnant women across the State. The campaigns included education outreach in Spanish, billboards, radio, public service announcements, a PBS Opioid Week, and a campaign highlighting pregnancy and MAT that included medical journal ads, bus shelter ads, brochures, and take-one displays for distribution in OB/GYN offices.
- Under SOR, OASAS will continue to deliver targeted media campaigns to the Latino community through “Nueva Esperanza, Nueva Vida” episodes, with a target to leave over three million impressions. OASAS will add a new program series to be delivered in English that promotes prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Workforce

- Under SOR, Medication Assisted Treatment Learning Collaboratives will support new and existing prescribers to understand and better treat individuals with OUD. Learning Collaboratives will be implemented in Erie, Monroe, and Nassau counties with each tailored to the needs of the prescriber community in their respective settings.

- Through funded projects to increase access to MAT, providers will implement a protocol to assess patients for risky or problematic opioid use. The protocol will include screening for OUD, identifying risky or problematic use, and providing brief interventions or linkage to MAT, as needed. Screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) will be used to identify and refer those in need of treatment.

Increasing access to treatment

New York State invested Opioid STR and SOR funds to establish community-specific treatment models to deliver evidence-based, person-centered, and rapidly accessible care to best meet the unique needs of the respective region. This resulted in significantly expanded access to telepractice, mobile treatment services, and rapid linkage to MAT through funding of the Centers of Treatment Innovation (COTI) and Drug User Health Hubs.

Access to MAT

- Implemented a program to train medical practitioners in the provision of MAT using buprenorphine for individuals suffering from OUD in high-need counties across the State. Participants who completed this buprenorphine waiver training received guidance on strategies to manage patients on buprenorphine in the office setting. This included best practice guidelines and procedures, including case-based learning. The initiative addresses the lack of medical practitioners qualified in MAT for OUD in underserved, mainly rural regions of the State.
- Ten existing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), in partnership with an addiction treatment program, will provide OUD treatment services—including MAT utilizing all FDA-approved addiction medications—within their facility or expand services currently offered to include all FDA-approved addiction medications. In partnership with an OASAS certified opioid treatment program (OTP), the partnership will ensure both medication and psychosocial treatment services for individuals utilizing MAT to treat an OUD. Anticipated number of individuals served through the ten FQHCs is 2,150 per year.
- Five hospital emergency departments will implement models for initiating buprenorphine with active linkage to a peer and connection to community-based follow-up care. Among the five hospitals, the program expects to reach 6,800 individuals potentially in need of MAT.

Justice Involved Population

- OASAS implemented treatment transition for individuals with OUD reentering communities from criminal justice settings in 20 local correctional facilities and 3 State facilities. Individuals receive substance use disorder counseling, education on MAT, and upon release the option to initiate MAT and a person-centered care plan for linkage to treatment.
- Through a collaboration between OASAS and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) up to five DOCCS facilities will partner with a substance use disorder treatment program to identify individuals

appropriate for opioid treatment services, facilitate admission into treatment, and provide MAT while detained at the correctional facility. Each correctional facility in partnership with an OASAS certified provider will have the capacity to serve 30 individuals at a time and up to 300 a year.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

- There were 8,595 persons trained in how to respond to overdoses and use naloxone in 28 high-need counties. Of those, 1,374 persons identified as first responders, 929 as school personnel, and 441 as either having a loved one with SUD, a personal history of drug use, or another personal reason for attending the training.
- Through SOR funding, OASAS is utilizing two staff to deliver naloxone training. Where STR naloxone training efforts were limited to the identified high-need counties, SOR trainers will provide naloxone training throughout New York State. OASAS anticipates training at least 500 individuals per month on naloxone rescue.

Supporting recovery

Recovery Services

- OASAS is establishing 14 new Recovery Centers to provide health, wellness, and other critical supports to people and families who are recovering from a substance use disorder or are seeking recovery services for a family member or friend. The Recovery Centers began operation in June 2019 and will engage between 200 and 700 people per year at each site.
- The ROCovery Fitness model is being implemented in two additional communities. The ROCovery model utilizes both indoor and outdoor fitness activities to promote health and wellness for those in recovery. Planned and pop-up activities offer sober socializing, peer support, and physical fitness to encourage healthy recovery. At least 500 people in recovery will be served in each of the two communities.

Youth and Students

- Implemented a youth and young adult recovery movement branded 'Youth Voices Matter' that has generated nearly 19,000 hits on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Establishing six Youth Recovery Community Organizations across the State that enable young people in recovery to support each other and provide social and recreational activities.
- Supported recovery coach trainings, sober fun nights, gardens, recovery celebration events, creation of youth advisory boards, and peer mentors that engaged over 980 youth.
- Through STR, developed five Collegiate Recovery Programs where colleges provide supportive environments that reinforce the decision to engage in a lifestyle of recovery from substance use disorder.
- With SOR funding, two State University campuses, Albany and Purchase, will hold recovery events on campus to support college students in recovery. This will create

opportunities for students to participate in sober social activities and build a peer network. The anticipated target population is 150 students over two semesters in each location.

- Road Recovery will provide the TRAX music program in four youth clubhouses and collaborate with two youth clubhouses to hold a Recovery Music Festival. This planned programming will reach approximately 400 people.
- Youth Voices Matter and University of Youth Power will collaborate with Friends of Recovery to offer a youth leadership conference to build community organizing and leadership skills among youth. Together they will provide a recovery track workshop to enhance the youth leadership conference, promoting recovery, health, and wellness, and motivating youth to make positive life decisions by developing a bi-monthly newsletter; conducting youth outreach, focus, and social groups; and maintaining youth recovery leaders.

Special Populations

- Implemented a Recovery Center/Youth Clubhouse at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe that is currently serving 132 individuals, most of whom are under age 18.
- Among the First Nation communities, OASAS is supporting the establishment of two new Recovery Centers and four new Youth Clubhouses that will provide targeted recovery supports and messaging to the Native American community.
- OASAS is funding two treatment providers to provide peer recovery support and engagement to individuals re-entering the community from detention facilities in New York City. The programs will engage over 100 individuals in assessing treatment and recovery needs, and engaging individuals with services.

Collaborating with local entities

OASAS consulted with relevant stakeholders, including Local Governmental Units (LGUs), local law enforcement, State agency partners, and others, during implementation of Opioid STR to assure grant funded services were specifically tailored to meet the needs of each region's individuals and families affected by OUD.

- OASAS collaborated with the Office of Court Administration and 10 local Opioid Drug Courts to identify partnerships with OUD treatment programs and bring assessment and peer services to the court for people in need of immediate services.
- Through the expansion of the Center of Treatment Innovation model in 26 counties, OASAS conferred with LGU administrators to both identify service needs and treatment providers to meet the needs of the community.
- Prevention programs that will implement the PAX Good Behavior Game in classrooms throughout the State enlisted school districts as partners in this project. School districts provided a letter of support agreeing to implement PAX in classrooms based on grade level.

Positive outcomes

- The Strengthening Families Program served 112 families, including 277 individuals.
- 93 community organizations partnered with prevention providers and served 4,360 underserved, hard-to-reach youth.
- The Learning Collaborative hubs are anticipated to reach 230 providers statewide.
- 296 physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners have received training on MAT.
- Clinicians engaged 2,725 individuals in the community and 2,164 received MAT.
- 1,958 individuals in local correctional facilities received substance use disorder counseling and education on MAT. Of these, 1,356 received a person-centered plan for linkage to treatment upon leaving the facility with 667 (49%) admitted to treatment post-release.
- 631 individuals in State correctional facilities received substance use disorder counseling and education in MAT. Of these, 259 (41%) consented to naltrexone and 145 received the injection (36 were not yet close enough to release date to receive the injection). All who received the injection were provided a person-centered care plan.
- 8,595 persons trained in how to respond to overdoses and use naloxone.
- Certified Recovery Peer Advocates have engaged 4,280 individuals in the community.

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