

D.C. Update: NASADAD releases updated STR/SOR timeline, upcoming drug take back day, and more

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News from NASADAD

NASADAD releases updated STR/SOR funding timeline

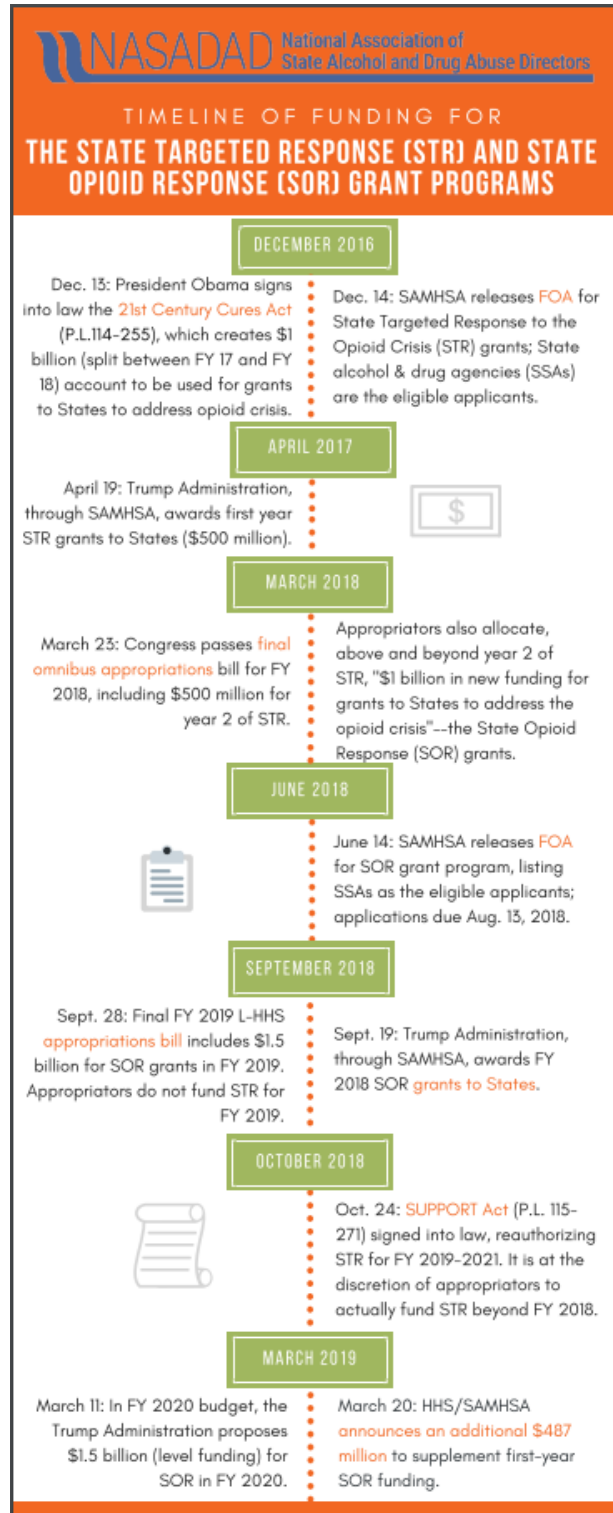
NASADAD has released an [updated timeline](#) of funding for the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. The timeline outlines key dates, such as: when grants were authorized; when Congress appropriated funds; when funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) were released; funding award periods for States for each of the grant programs; and more.

Here are some highlights from the timeline:

- The timeline begins with passage of the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, which created a \$1 billion account in the Treasury to be used for grants to States to address the opioid crisis. This culminated in the STR grant program, for which the State alcohol and drug agencies were the eligible applicants.
- In FY 2018, Congress allocated an additional \$1 billion to States to address opioid addiction and overdose through the SOR grants. The State alcohol and drug agencies were listed as the eligible applicants for SOR.
- The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 reauthorized STR through FY 2021. However, Congress did not allocate funds to STR in FY 2019.
- Congress appropriated \$1.5 billion for SOR in FY 2019.

The updated the timeline includes these recent developments:

- On March 11, 2019, the Administration released its proposed budget for FY 2020, and included a request of \$1.5 billion for the SOR program.
- On March 20, 2019, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



- announced an additional \$487 million to supplement first-year SOR funding.
- The next installment of \$1 billion is expected to later this fiscal year.

NASADAD signs on to FY 2020 Byrne JAG funding letter

On April 12, 2019, NASADAD, along with over 50 other national addiction and criminal justice organizations, sent a [letter](#) to leaders of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies regarding FY 2020 funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Byrne JAG is described in the letter as, "the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide." The letter notes that Byrne JAG has lost funding in recent years, and requests a return to the FY 2010 funding level of \$520 million. The letter states that, "flexibility is the hallmark of the Byrne JAG program. This flexibility also means that states can respond quickly to emerging needs and crises. For example, many states were able to pivot swiftly to the prevention, treatment and recovery from opioid addiction."

Federal Funding Opportunities

SAMHSA releases FOA for Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the FY 2019 [Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Grants \(ROTA\)](#). The purpose of this grant program is to develop and disseminate training and technical assistance for rural communities on addressing the opioid crisis. Grant recipients are expected to facilitate the identification of model programs, develop and update materials related to the prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder, and ensure that high-quality training is provided.

As described in the FOA, ROTA builds upon a SAMHSA collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA provides Cooperative Extension Services programs to strengthen the social, economic, and environmental well-being of families, communities and agriculture enterprises. The USDA has identified opioid misuse in rural America to be one of the areas of focus of these programs, and SAMHSA's ROTA grants will build upon these Cooperative Extensions by expanding their reach. Applications are due June 7, 2019.

DOJ seeking applications for Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (COAP) Grant

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has released a funding opportunity announcement for its FY 2019 [Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program \(COAP\)](#). The COAP site-based program provides financial and technical assistance to States, local governments, and tribal governments to help communities plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, and treat those impacted by the opioid crisis. The program also promotes cross-system planning and coordination of service delivery to reduce overdose deaths.

The grant program has three funding categories:

- Category 1: Locally Driven Responses to the Opioid Epidemic
- Category 2: Statewide Implementation, Enhancement, and Evaluation Projects
- Category 3: Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Implementation and Enhancement Projects

Eligible applicants for category 2 are the State alcohol and drug agencies (SSAs), or the State administering agencies (SAAs) that are responsible for directing criminal justice planning in each State. The objective of Category 2 is to support States in their efforts to implement, enhance, or evaluate effective opioid-related efforts within the criminal justice system. Subcategory 2a is for Statewide Implementation Projects, Subcategory 2b is for Statewide Enhancement or Evaluation, and Subcategory 2c is for States that would like to implement new initiatives and enhance or evaluate existing initiatives (both Subcategories 2a and 2b).

DOJ is hosting an [informational webinar](#) to further discuss COAP and the application process on April 29th at 2:00 pm EST. Applications are due June 5, 2019.

News from the States

Ohio Governor, State alcohol and drug agency director, and health director speak to parents about dangers of e-cigarettes

Last week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, along with NASADAD member Lori Criss, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the OH Department of Health, [spoke to parents about the dangers of e-cigarettes](#). They described the risks associated with e-cigarette use by teens, and discussed the importance of raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco in Ohio from 18 to 21. Director Criss stated that, "The impact of nicotine on a developing brain causes young people to become addicted much more swiftly than an adult. Increasing the minimum age to purchase cigarettes and e-cigarettes will increase the age that people have their first cigarette and reduce the likelihood they will become long-term smokers."

22 State health officials send letter to HHS Sec. Azar urging federal government to improve access to buprenorphine

On April 8, 2019, 22 State health officials sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, requesting urgent federal action to expand access to buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder. The health officials state that the Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) [waiver requirements for buprenorphine](#) are burdensome and reduce prescribing of the medication. The letter states that, "legislation should be passed eliminating the waiver requirements and allowing all practitioners who are registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prescribe controlled substances to also prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder." The health officials call for the Secretary of HHS to use his authority to allow newly waived practitioners to prescribe to 100 patients immediately.

Around the Agencies

NIH announces four research sites for HEALing Communities Study

Last week, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced--as part of its HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative--four research sites for the HEALing Communities Study. As described in a [press release](#), this study aims to reduce overdose deaths by 40 percent over three years in selected communities by testing a set of prevention and treatment interventions, such as distribution of naloxone and linking individuals in the criminal justice system with treatment for opioid addiction.

Grant awards were issued by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to the University of Kentucky, Lexington; Boston Medical Center, Boston; Columbia University, New York City; and Ohio State University, Columbus. Each site is partnering with at least 15 communities to measure the impact of integrating substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services in primary care, mental health, criminal justice, and other settings. RTI International, based in North Carolina, will serve as the study's coordinating center, and will be responsible for data analysis and dissemination of research findings over the course of the study.

In the press release, Director of NIDA, Dr. Nora Volkow said that, ""The evidence generated through the HEALing Communities Study will help communities nationwide address the opioid crisis at the local level. By testing and evaluating interventions where they are needed the most, we hope to show how researchers, providers, and communities can come together and finally bring an end to this devastating public health crisis."

FDA approves generic naloxone spray

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) its approval of a generic form of Narcan, the nasal spray form of the opioid overdose reversal medication naloxone. The FDA had tentatively approved this generic drug product last year. Teva Pharmaceuticals has received final FDA approval to market generic naloxone nasal spray. The approval of this generic product builds upon the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) efforts to increase access to naloxone in communities across the U.S. Along with this development, the FDA is also planning new steps to prioritize the review of additional generic drug applications for medications that treat opioid overdose.

In the News

Law enforcement using blood draws on those suspected of drug-impaired driving

Last week [Stateline published an article](#) about new State law enforcement initiatives to draw

blood of those who are suspected of drug-impaired driving in order to determine whether they have a substance such as heroin or THC in their system. Although breath tests have long been used to detect alcohol impairment in drivers, there hasn't been an efficient method to test for other substances. In these new State efforts, if police suspect that a driver is impaired by drugs, they can fill out an e-warrant, which can be approved by on-call judges within a few minutes. After approval, cops who have been trained and certified in phlebotomy can draw blood in order to test for drugs. The *Stateline* article notes that, "A 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling found that police don't need a warrant if a driver suspected of impairment refuses to take a breath test, but they do for a blood test, which pierces the skin." Forty-five States currently have legislation or court rules that allow for warrants to be issued electronically or by phone or video, and at least nine States have law enforcement phlebotomy programs.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Recovery LIVE! event on increasing access to treatment and recovery supports for people with disabilities

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) is hosting a [Recovery LIVE! event](#) about how to engage and support people with disabilities who are seeking treatment and recovery support services for serious mental illness or substance use disorders. Presenters will discuss ways to be more inclusive when providing services, offer specific strategies to improve access to care, and share a new BRSS TACS resource for service providers with tips on accommodations for different types of disabling conditions. The event will be held on Thursday, April 25th, at 2:00 pm EST.



DEA National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27th

The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) next drug take back day will be Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 10 am–2 pm EST. This event allows individuals to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. The DEA partners with federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement; businesses; medical offices; agencies; and first responders to host take back events. The [Take Back Day website](#) has a collection site locator to help individuals find a safe disposal site close to them.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 6th

This year's [National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#) will be held on May 6. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Awareness Day focuses on the importance children's mental health, especially as it relates to healthy development. This year's Awareness Day event will take place at the Hubert Humphrey Building in Washington, DC. During the event, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, will focus on the impact that suicide has on youth, young adults, and families, and will review evidence-based programs that help those in crisis. The event will be livestreamed [here](#) on May 6th at 3:00 pm EST.

SAMHSA encourages States, tribes, territories, and communities across the nation to [host events](#) and activities around children's mental health throughout the month of May.

SAMHSA webinar on women veterans' substance use and mental health issues

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is hosting a [webinar on the mental health and substance use issues that impact women veterans](#). Learning objectives of the webinar are to:

- Define the unique risk factors for women veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder and the psychological effects of war, military sexual trauma, intimate partner violence, substance use, and suicide
- Identify gaps in data, programs, and services for women veterans
- Describe how to build the behavioral health workforce's capacity to provide women veterans with care that is sensitive to military culture, trauma, and gender at every stage of life
- Illustrate opportunities for increased collaboration and coordination to improve access and quality of care
- Discover simple, yet effective, strategies to improve your programs and services for women veterans

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:30 pm EST, and will feature presentations by: Angela Wright, J.D., Assistant Director, SMVF TA Center, Policy Research Associates, Inc.; Laura

Miller, M.D., Medical Director of Women's Mental Health, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital; and
Meaghan Mobbs, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate in Clinical Psychology, Teacher's College, Columbia
University.

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