

KANSAS

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 Kansas

Kansas received \$3 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$4 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Kansas received a total of \$6 million through SOR.

Overview of Kansas' efforts to address the opioid crisis

Kansas is utilizing funds to expand the capacity of the State's network of providers to implement statewide evidence-based opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Four regional treatment providers are funded to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery services covering all counties in Kansas. Treatment and recovery services include increased provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT), residential, detox, outpatient, individual and group counseling, telehealth, care coordination, peer support, housing assistance, recovery support, and transportation assistance. Kansas also funds projects specifically focused on statewide prevention initiatives that include provider education, community outreach and education, community level prevention grants, awareness campaign development and implementation, older adult education, and medication disposal initiatives. Overdose reversal efforts, such as naloxone distribution and education, are also supported by STR/SOR.

Preventing use and reducing risk

Opioid Awareness Campaign

Kansas has developed an opioid-specific awareness campaign under the *It Matters Kansas* campaign. *It Matters* is a Kansas-developed media initiative that was initially created to raise awareness about substance use and mental health issues. This campaign provides materials that are customizable and can be used for free. Community coalitions use this campaign to raise awareness locally. With STR dollars, the campaign was expanded to develop opioid-specific materials to increase awareness and the readiness of communities to address the opioid crisis. Campaign materials were disseminated at the State and community levels.

The State agency is currently working on a statewide awareness campaign targeting older adults and rural/farming communities. The initiative will provide statewide educational tools and resources for older adults on safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription medications to support substance use prevention for older adults.

Education and Training

Kansas has implemented virtual and in-person first responder and provider education across the State, which includes: education on OUD; best practices for treating individuals with OUD; screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT); and naloxone administration. Communities have also conducted various outreach and educational events.

Additionally, the State agency funded sessions at the Kansas Opioid Conference, providing education to law enforcement officers and prescribers. This conference provides an opportunity to identify best practices for prevention across disciplines to build a proactive response to and prevent the escalation of the opioid issue in Kansas. The conference highlights strategies regarding how to address the crisis through the different lenses of prescribing, prevention, treatment, recovery, law enforcement, and intervention. There were over 350 people in attendance.

The State alcohol and drug agency also provides statewide OUD prevention educational materials and resources to all law enforcement agencies, oral surgeons, funeral homes, senior centers, areas on aging, and home care and hospice agencies in Kansas. Free e-learning modules and virtual training resources on naloxone have also been created for first responders, law enforcement, and the general public.

High-Risk Communities

The State alcohol and drug agency provided mini grant funding to coalitions for community-level prevention initiatives in high risk areas in Kansas, reaching an estimated 100,000 Kansans. The State has also worked with communities on implementing medication disposal initiatives to reduce diversion of prescription opioids and targeted high-risk communities with no local options for medication disposal.

Increasing access to treatment

Kansas has hosted several 4-hour in person Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver training for physicians and had 35 healthcare providers in attendance. These 4 hours are accredited and count for the 4-hour in person requirement to obtain the DATA waiver. After completing the in-person training, providers are able to complete the remaining 4 hours online. DATA waiver trainings continue to occur across the State on an ongoing basis. All trainings provided by the State agency, including provider education on OUD, DATA waiver trainings, and community education, have led to a total of 2,271 trained providers.

As of April 2019, Kansas estimates to have provided treatment services to 4,212 individuals, 4,202 of which received MAT services. One special population that the State is targeting is pregnant women. To date, STR/SOR funds have supported treatment and recovery services for 51 pregnant women in Kansas. Additionally, the funds have supported treatment services to 192 individuals who report an ethnicity of Hispanic or Latino.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

With STR dollars the State alcohol and drug agency provided overdose and naloxone training to 2,292 Kansans. The State has also provided education and distributed naloxone to 368 individuals and provided training to 1,924 individuals.

Funding has been used to create and provide resources for all law enforcement agencies in Kansas to implement a naloxone program. A sample naloxone policy was created that can be customized to each law enforcement agency. The State developed and provided pocket guides that provide quick information for law enforcement on how to identify and respond to an opioid overdose. The State alcohol and drug agency also created and disseminated a plastic card that lists the Kansas addiction treatment referral line as well as information about SAMHSA treatment locator services for law enforcement officers to keep in a wallet and utilize to refer individuals to treatment when needed.

Supporting recovery

With STR funds, Kansas has increased its capacity to provide additional recovery services for individuals with OUD across the State. As of April 2019, the State alcohol and drug agency estimates that recovery services have been provided to 539 individuals. The majority of these services (60%) were provided through peer mentoring.

Collaborating with local entities

STR/SOR funds have supported State and local collaboration on efforts to combat the opioid crisis in Kansas.

The State alcohol and drug agency worked with community coalitions to increase community capacity and prevention efforts. Kansas collaborated with healthcare providers (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician's assistants, emergency medical staff, etc.) to increase access to treatment, identification of OUD, best practices, improve emergency department protocols, etc. The State alcohol and drug agency worked with law enforcement, criminal justice, and first responders to increase capacity to implement naloxone programs and overdose protocols. Work has also occurred with the general public and other professions to increase awareness of the issue at the State and local levels. The State alcohol and drug agency has engaged addiction professionals, peer support providers, social workers, and others to increase capacity to implement treatment and recovery services across the State.

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