

MONTANA

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 Montana

Montana received \$2 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$4 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Montana received a total of \$6 million through SOR.

Overview of Montana's efforts to address the opioid crisis

Prevention goals and initiatives for STR/SOR:

1. Increase access to and educate on the value of using drug disposal bags among those receiving an opioid prescription (STR only).
2. Increase the number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), law enforcement, and others trained in the use of naloxone.
3. Increase the number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), law enforcement, and others carrying naloxone for emergency purposes.
4. Collaborate with other partners to develop a communications plan for delivering targeted prevention messages to identified audiences (SOR only).
5. Increase access to the PAX Good Behavior Game in Montana's K-5 elementary schools as an evidenced-based primary prevention strategy to reduce opioid and substance use among youth.

Treatment and Recovery goals and initiatives for STR/SOR:

1. Increase access to comprehensive, evidence-based services for OUD.
2. Increase the number of Montana providers trained to use medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
3. Increase the number of individuals receiving medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for OUD at provider sites.
4. Increase the number of individuals receiving OUD Peer Support and Recovery Services at provider sites.
5. Increase the number of individuals trained to provide Peer Support and Recovery Services.
6. Montana will develop a plan for Sober Living Housing to support the housing needs of people in recovery (SOR only).
7. Will train all State-approved treatment providers in the value of MAT and their role in treating OUD (SOR only).
8. A MAT integration plan will be drafted by Advisory Workgroup, addressing MAT delivery within criminal justice settings and promoting standards of care (SOR only).

Prevention: stopping opioid misuse and overdose

Disposal Bags and Drop Boxes

The STR funds enabled the State to purchase drug deactivation bags that were distributed across Montana. This effort not only helped increase education on the value of safe storage and disposal, but also provided the public with an easy and environmentally friendly method of disposal. In Year 1, drug deactivation bags were distributed to every county in the State (n=56 counties). Prevention Specialists in each county worked with their communities to distribute the bags and educate on the need for safe storage, use, and disposal of medications. In Year 2, the primary focus was to distribute disposal bags to organizations that served older Montanans. Adult Protective Services, Aging Agencies, and Senior Centers received over 62,000 bags and educational literature. Another 21,300 bags, which were donated to Montana, and educational literature were distributed based on public requests for the bags.

In 2019, the Attorney General's Office and MT Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) organized for and funded drug drop boxes to be located throughout the State in an effort to prevent substance misuse. The SOR grant is one of many stakeholders to educate the public on the value of and how to use these drop boxes in their communities and is one of the communication plan activities.

Integrating the PAX Good Behavior Game into Elementary Schools

Using SOR funds, interested schools across Montana have been selected to receive training in the evidenced-based model by nationally certified instructors and receive resources and supplies necessary for implementation. During the implementation process, schools will receive ongoing support from Montana-based PAX consultants and evaluation data will be used to guide quality improvement at the schools.

Increasing access to treatment

Building Capacity to Deliver MAT

The STR and SOR dollars were used to increase the number of Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver trainings offered in Montana, to educate the public and providers about the value of and need for MAT, and to address misinformation and stigma. The STR grant supported DATA waiver trainings to providers, as well as community MAT education efforts across the State. Montana now has local capacity to continue the MAT waiver trainings, to educate the addiction workforce, and to provide intensive academic detailing to providers. These trainings will continue under the SOR grant. The number of waived providers has increased by over 500%; currently there are 138 providers listed on the Buprenorphine Practitioner Locator.

Advocating for Comprehensive Evidence-based Treatment

STR and SOR grant funds are being used to increase access to treatment with three components: MAT, other aspects of substance use care, and peer support services. Under STR, nine providers implemented this model, six of which were new MAT providers. Funding from STR will support another three providers to deliver MAT, mental health, and peer support services; for one community this will be the first time that MAT services will be available in their community. The SOR grant will also build on this number of MAT providers. Targeted populations include: American Indians; women who are pregnant/of childbearing age; veterans; and those with criminal justice involvement.

STR/SOR funds also help build and promote a comprehensive treatment model that emphasizes team-based coordinated care with the commitment of a care coordinator to support the care team and the client. Client needs, including social, emotional, medical, and behavioral, are being met in a more strategic and coordinated manner.

Provider Education

In November 2018, the STR grant supported a contract with the Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA) to develop trainings and outreach to the provider community to educate them on the value of and their role in OUD treatment. The work will continue under the SOR grant. The State did not have the capacity or resources to address this need alone, and the STR and SOR dollars have allowed DPHHS to partner with MPCA. In recent years, MPCA has been working with Federally Qualified Health Centers to integrate behavioral health (IBH) services into their practices; these grant funds allow the organization to enhance and expand their MAT and IBH trainings to a broader provider audience. As of April 2019, the training had been developed, trainers identified, and trainings were being scheduled.

MAT in Criminal Justice Settings

The SOR grant will play a supportive role in working with the Department of Corrections (DoC) to identify gaps in treatment transition and coverage for patients transitioning from criminal justice settings to the community, as well as developing strategies to meet ongoing recovery needs. Additionally, jail and prison providers will have access to the trainings

offered by the MPCA as part of the MAT implementation plan being developed under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) funded by the Bureau of Justice Administration.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Training Efforts for Law Enforcement and EMS

The STR/SOR funding enabled the State to contract with Best Practice Medicine (BPM). This is a collaborative effort with another department within the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) that has direct access to and supports EMS and law enforcement. Best Practice Medicine delivers in-person and online naloxone trainings throughout Montana and these Master Trainers train others to administer Naloxone in their communities.

Distribution Efforts

In 2017, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill 333, the Help Save Lives from Overdose Act, authorizing increased access to naloxone. As a result, MT DPHHS issued a statewide standing order for pharmacists to voluntarily utilize for dispensing naloxone prescriptions. The STR and SOR grant funding enabled the State to contract with a pharmacy to dispense free naloxone units to those who attended a BPM training or were trained by the growing number of Master Trainers across the State.

Increasing Awareness

The SOR grant is supporting collaborative work with managers of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant, the Montana Primary Care Association, the Tribal Opioid Response Grantees and others to develop a plan to expand awareness of the value of naloxone and how to access naloxone. This is another activity of the communication plan.

Supporting recovery

Policy development: The STR dollars were used to pilot peer support services as a reimbursable service within MAT programs. These and other peer support fiscal data were used in support a bill, that was passed during the 2019 Legislative session, that allowed peer support to be added to the Medicaid State Plan as a reimbursable service.

STR funds directly funded:

1. the delivery of training in Peer Support Services
2. peers to attend an in-person peer support training,
3. training for organizations on how to integrate, support and sustain peers as members of the care team,
4. technical assistance and support to be offered on-demand, and making online trainings available for continuing education units (CEUs).

Under the SOR grant, Montana will have the opportunity to secure technical assistance from the Opioid Response Network to explore what Sober Housing model is a viable option for Montana and that model will be the foundation of the plan that will be developed to address the needs of people in recovery.

Collaborating with local entities

MT DPHHS is working with the Department of Corrections on how to address MAT delivery within a criminal justice setting and contracted with the Montana Primary Care Association to address workforce development needs and to support programs with implementing MAT.

The SOR grant also collaborates with and supports the work of other Montana entities that received funding to support prevention, treatment and recovery activities to address the opioid crisis. These include the Tribal Opioid Grantees, grantees at the Montana State University- Extension Office, the CDC grantees, the Montana Farm Bureau and Montana State Libraries.

Positive outcomes

- In Year 1 of STR, 100,000 drug deactivation bags were distributed to every county in the State. In Year 2, over 60,000 bags were distributed.
- Prescription drug drop boxes are now available in 54 counties.
- 532 individuals were trained as Master Trainers to administer naloxone and have the capacity to train others in their communities.
- 1,252 individuals were trained as Authorized Users of Naloxone and have access to free naloxone through grant funding.
- 1,489 units of naloxone have been dispensed and 90% of those were law enforcement and/or EMS personnel.
- Since February 2018, 10 waiver trainings have been held and 431 individuals attended these trainings.
- Montana currently has 138 waived prescribers, a 518% increase from 2017.
- 129 clients have been served through 9 Hubs and Spokes.
- 11 trainings have been held for peer support specialists and 21 webinars have been offered.
- 97 peer support specialists have been trained and are located in 55 provider settings across the State.

For more information, contact Robert Morrison, Executive Director, at rmorrison@nasadad.org, or Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman, Federal Affairs Manager, at swickramatilake@nasadad.org.