

## How states are using State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) funds to make a difference

### OVERDOSE REVERSAL INITIATIVES

In April of 2019, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) sent an inquiry to the Single State Agencies for alcohol and other drug services requesting information on how they were using the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants to address the opioid crisis in their states. The results of the inquiry were summarized into state-specific profiles highlighting prevention, treatment, overdose reversal, and recovery support efforts. State profiles generally covered a reporting timeframe between May 2017 - April 2019. A total of 50 state responses were received. Washington D.C. and U.S. Territories did not respond to the inquiry. Below is a brief analysis of the most common ways states have used STR/SOR funds to increase the availability of naloxone and improve coordination efforts to reduce overdose events; select examples of innovative overdose reversal initiatives are provided.



## STATES' MOST COMMON OVERDOSE REVERSAL INITIATIVES WITH STR/SOR FUNDS

Services Provided/ Developed	Populations and Partners Served	Percentage of State Respondents (n=50)
Naloxone Distribution Programs and Overdose Response Education and Training	Persons with OUD; first responders and emergency medical services; fire, law enforcement, criminal justice, and veteran organizations; homeless programs; schools and universities; hospitals and pharmacies; substance use treatment programs; and community organizations	<b>94% (47)</b>
Strategic Planning and Capacity Building	Community stakeholders, first responders, law enforcement, addiction and mental health clinicians	<b>28% (14)</b>
Public Awareness and Materials Development	Persons with OUD, general public, community coalitions, substance use and mental health providers, first responders, law enforcement	<b>24% (12)</b>
Post-Overdose Programs	Persons with OUD at risk of relapse-related overdose	<b>10% (5)</b>

## OVERDOSE REVERSAL INITIATIVES

Of the 50 state responses, most of the overdose reversal activities funded by STR/SOR involved purchasing naloxone kits, developing community-based programming to disseminate kits, and providing appropriate overdose education and training. These efforts included disseminating naloxone kits to community-based organizations at various locations throughout state counties and regions, especially to high-need communities. Various organizations also created and/or delivered training to educate individuals on the signs and symptoms of an overdose, how to use naloxone, and who to contact during an overdose. Organizations involved in naloxone training included substance use and mental health treatment programs; recovery housing providers; first responders and emergency medical services; fire, law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies; city and county health departments; veteran-serving agencies; homeless programs and food pantries; hospitals and pharmacies; churches and faith-based organizations; and youth-serving organizations, schools and universities. As of April 2019, 851,327 naloxone kits have been distributed and 37,649 overdose reversals have been reported.

State grantees also used STR/SOR funds to support strategic planning and capacity building in communities with high rates of overdose. Strategic planning initiatives included conducting community needs assessments and developing preparedness

plans to better coordinate evidence-based practices and increase community involvement (e.g., naloxone distribution site planning, opioid overdose response planning). Capacity building initiatives included developing tools to capture community-level data and assisting target communities to establish and/or build community-based organizations/coalitions. Additionally, data collection tools (e.g., naloxone pre- and post-cards, overdose mapping system) have been developed to better assess and mitigate overdose events in high risk areas. The aim of these initiatives is to create community partnerships or tools that sustain and expand community-level prevention efforts, especially among individuals at risk of relapse-related overdose.

Other state initiatives included overdose public awareness and materials development activities. Public awareness activities included promoting naloxone informational/media campaigns (e.g., naloxone distribution sites) and launching online websites dedicated to providing information on overdose education and training. Various educational materials, such as overdose toolkits, law enforcement overdose response pocket guides, and other treatment and recovery resources have also been produced for public and community agencies

STR/SOR funds have supported post-overdose programs to provide follow-up care to overdose survivors identified through 911 calls or emergency department admissions. These efforts include assembling mobile community outreach teams that may comprise of an emergency medical technician, counselor, peer, or police officer. Some services offered by the outreach team include overdose prevention education, naloxone kits and training, health check-ups, and referrals to services (e.g., treatment, housing, Medicaid). Additionally, mobile outreach teams have been deployed in high-risk communities.

## SELECTED EXAMPLES OF STATE OVERDOSE REVERSAL INITIATIVES

### Overdose Response Training and Naloxone Distribution Programs:

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has used STR funds to implement the Overdose Prevention Program (OPP) – a state program that provides access to naloxone kits to community-based organizations that serve individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose and to friends and family who may witness an overdose. In addition, OPP provides overdose recognition and response training to participating organizations. As of 2019, there are 96 enrolled OPP organizations, including substance use and mental health treatment providers, homeless service organizations, harm reduction programs, recovery organizations, emergency departments, federally qualified health centers, and other community-based organizations. Through April 2019, OPP has conducted 49 overdose prevention and response training events that educated 1,643 individuals and purchased and distributed approximately 56,595 naloxone kits, including 5,000 kits for law enforcement agencies. Efforts have led to an estimated 2,647 reported overdose reversals. The SOR grant continues to support OPP's efforts, with an estimated \$3.5 million set to be allocated for naloxone kits each year of the grant.

### Strategic Planning and Capacity Building:

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), has used STR funds to expand their naloxone distribution sites from two syringe service programs to three treatment hubs, eight community coalitions, four community-based organizations, and one jail. STR funding has also supported the development of an opioid spike action plan involving a real-time overdose mapping system. Planning efforts have brought numerous community stakeholders together across various counties to begin implementing the tool. In 2018, the overdose reversal tracking tool began seeing increased utilization across several agencies. As of April 2019 at least one agency in each county of Nevada has signed up for this mapping tool, expanding collaboration efforts to 45 agencies across the state.

## SELECTED EXAMPLES OF STATE OVERDOSE REVERSAL INITIATIVES

### Public Awareness Activities and Material Creation:

In Delaware, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) has developed a naloxone awareness campaign with the intent of increasing awareness of naloxone and its availability throughout the state. In addition, campaign efforts are raising awareness around HelpsHereDE.com – a website used to navigate and locate naloxone distribution sites. The campaign included digital ads (e.g., Facebook, Instagram), stickers for syringe exchange bags, a quarter page print ad, and a radio public service announcement (PSA).



### Post-Overdose Programs:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has used STR funds to support and expand their Boston-based Post Overdose Support Team (POST) initiative. POST aims to connect with individuals and families through in-person, home-based outreach following a 911 call for an overdose. Outreach events may result in substance use disorder treatment placements, family recovery support services referrals, or overdose prevention and naloxone training. Funded efforts include onboarding more personnel (e.g., harm reduction specialists and first responders), improving coordination between various treatment agencies, and expanding the team's community outreach hours. As of April 2019, three funded POST sites have reported making contact with approximately 418 individuals located at addresses where an overdose occurred. With SOR funding, POST continues to expand and enhance their three existing community-based first responder follow-up programs.