

# Addressing Opioid Misuse and Use Disorders: The Impact of State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

## Background on State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

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. The STR program was designed 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 support activities for opioid use disorder (OUD). Following STR, the SOR program similarly aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved medications for treatment of OUD and through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for OUD. In addition, the SAMHSA SOR program supports evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to address stimulant misuse and use disorders, including for cocaine and methamphetamine.

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, grantees received a total of \$1 billion through STR. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, states, territories, and jurisdictions received a total of \$4 billion in SOR grants.

## Single State Agency (SSA): Minnesota Department of Human Services

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, Minnesota Department of Human Services received a total of \$10.6 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$33.5 million in SOR funding.

## Overview of Minnesota’s efforts to address opioid misuse and use disorders

The SOR grant funding is being used to reach Minnesotans struggling with opioids with lifesaving treatments, to reduce deaths from opioid overdose, and to prevent OUD in Minnesota’s most vulnerable communities.

Minnesota is utilizing the SOR funding to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to MAT for OUD, developing and supporting culturally relevant treatment to disparate populations, and supporting other evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. Minnesota is utilizing the funding to provide naloxone and to provide support for prevention; clinician training; public awareness; and culturally responsive American Indian, African American, African-born, Latino, and Asian American OUD treatment programming. The state has also developed two prevention media campaigns.

## Innovative service delivery models

- Office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) expansion
- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes)
- Parent-Child Assistance Program
- Recovery Community Organization
- Hennepin Healthcare
- Red Lake Chemical Health Programs: Mother's Sacred Gift
- Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN)
- Crown Medical Support Services
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES)
- Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
- Alliance Wellness
- Allina Health
- Mobile services (Avivo)
- Mobile Opioid Support Team (MOST)

## Building workforce capacity

- Minnesota funded the integration of MAT and addiction medicine training at the University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.
- Minnesota has utilized SOR funding to provide a Buprenorphine Boot Camp, which allows providers to attend Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver training to prescribe buprenorphine for OUD treatment. Those involved in the Boot Camp are then offered an opportunity to access the additional online waiver training free of charge.
- Mesabi Range College offers training on comprehensive opioid assessments for those seeking to work in underserved areas. The college will train individuals in rural areas in addictions counseling, targeting county social workers along with other individuals who work with those from underrepresented communities and/or are low income. The training will prepare individuals for successful licensure to care for individuals with OUD and substance use disorder.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

Minnesota works with local jurisdictions in implementing programs supported by SOR. The State invested in community integration efforts under the SOR funding to assist communities (health care providers, Tribal governments, local collaborative, etc.) in creating their own “controlled substance care teams” to improve community-wide coordination of opioid use prevention and treatment efforts. Some local jurisdictions have created “no wrong door” initiatives to assist in helping those with OUD access treatment and recovery supports.

## Preventing opioid misuse before it starts

### Education and public awareness

#### Media Campaigns

- Minnesota developed and maintains the [Know the Dangers](#) campaign, aimed at the public to increase awareness of and reduce deaths related to opioid overdose.
- Minnesota has utilized SOR funding to develop a provider education campaign, [Flip the Script](#), to change the narrative around prescription and opioid therapy, pain management, and prescription opioid misuse in Minnesota.

#### Local Coalitions

- Minnesota has made it a priority to involve local communities in its efforts. For the Flip the Script campaign, Minnesota worked collaboratively with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) to develop webinars and provide continuing medical education credits through MMA's webinar series. The Know the Dangers awareness campaign involves working with communities that have significant health disparities to develop culturally appropriate materials.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Minnesota has expanded training on and access to naloxone for laypersons, persons with family/friends with OUD, hospitals, treatment centers, sober living facilities, community members, and treatment courts.

## Increasing access to treatment

### Focusing on MAT

Minnesota is using SOR funding to expand MAT, specifically through support for:

- OBOT;
- Project ECHO;
- Community integration efforts for expansion of MAT across the continuum of care;
- Creation of [Fast-Tracker](#), a website showing real-time treatment bed availability;
- Increasing the OUD workforce with the creation and training of mental health professionals on OUD, training for opioid assessments in rural Minnesota, and vocational rehabilitation for those in recovery from OUD.

### Project ECHO

Minnesota has utilized SOR funds to create three Project ECHO hubs, designed to increase participation in MAT:

- Hub 1: Expertise in addiction medicine that focuses on evidence-based assessment and

management of patients with OUD and associated comorbidities.

- Hub 2: Provides capacity and competency building regarding best practices for serving pregnant, pos-partum, and parenting women struggling with OUD.
- Hub 3: Provides expertise and experience on best practices in addressing OUD for the Tribalcommunity.

### Bridge Clinic

The Bridge Clinic provides hospital-initiated buprenorphine induction in emergency room departments and addiction medicine and toxicology physicians receive the appropriate training. Once the client is inducted, they are involved in a transitional buprenorphine “Bridge Clinic” with a dedicated substance use navigator (SUN). The SUN builds a relationship with their patients, continuing care until a warm handoff can be made to community providers. Acting as a team, the emergency department provider, addiction physician, and SUN initiate initial screening followed by intervention and referral to services for patients.

## Supporting long-term recovery

- Certified peer recovery specialists will be funded to provide recovery support services to high school and college students
- Peer navigators will be hired to increase access to MAT for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal entity
- Opioid-specific peer recovery and care coordination will be increased
- Wayside Recovery Center is a women’s behavioral health ECHO Hub that has connected providers and clinicians while strengthening care for women statewide. Wayside will now serve as a “super” ECHO Hub by supporting and partnering with the American Indian Family Center, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Minnesota Recovery Connection, and Ecumen, focusing on American Indian pregnant, postpartum, and parenting mothers; aging adults/seniors with OUD; and peer recovery and care coordination services.
- A peer recovery specialist will be hired to work with and assist the veteran and service member communities.
- Peer recovery services will be funded to work in supportive housing and establish an internal Recovery Coach Academy to bolster the Step-Up Program and provide a full array of recovery services and empowerment opportunities. The Step-Up Program will also expand the Police-Assisted Recovery program through the development and launch of an Overdose Response Team that offers peer support services and triage to pretreatment services.

## Serving special populations

Minnesota has utilized the Know the Dangers awareness campaign materials to target the American Indian, African American, pregnant and parenting women, and LGBTQ populations. Minnesota will be utilizing SOR funding to target homeless and justice-involved populations. Minnesota has utilized the

STR and SOR funding to complete a Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Prescription Drug Prevention project for Leech Lake and Pine River-Backus Schools to educate students, parents, school facility and community members on prescription drug misuse.

- **Broadway Family Medicine** is a University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health training clinic located in a socioeconomically depressed predominantly African American population area of North Minneapolis. Broadway Family Medicine will continue its STR work of offering an integrated MAT and addiction medicine training program. In doing so, they will expand the number of providers with competence, experience, confidence, and access to supervision in providing MAT and preventing OUD.
- **Hennepin Healthcare** in partnership with the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) will create a multidisciplinary Native American ECHO hub. ECHO hubs support health care and other service providers with tele-training and mentoring. Together, Hennepin Healthcare and NACC will address prevention and treatment of OUD, pain management, and/or mental health conditions among the American Indians in Minnesota. The team will include a physician, a licensed alcohol drug counselor, a behavioral specialist, a peer recovery specialist, and a Tribal elder/traditional healer, with other health care providers as needed.
- **Red Lake Chemical Health Programs: Mother's Sacred Gift** focuses on the treatment, prevention, and recovery for pregnant women who are dependent on opiates during pregnancy and early parenting. The Mother's Sacred Gift program offers high quality prenatal and postnatal medical and behavioral health care, collaboration with child welfare agencies to prevent out-of-home placements, case management including a peer recovery specialist, assistance with transportation and housing, and linkages with other services within the Red Lake Indian Reservation.
- **RAAN** will increase access to MAT for patients diagnosed with OUD as well as to begin to improve systems of care for patients diagnosed with co-occurring disorders. This project will (1) create a culturally responsive MAT program to support women at risk for OUD; 2) create a medical dimension of care and improve client care coordination for the Red Lake Adult, Juvenile, and Family Wellness Court (Mino-misko-miikanaakedaa); (3) and improve coordination of post-overdose treatment, increase access to withdrawal support, and increase availability of MAT for difficult-to-reach populations.
- **Crown Medical Support Services** will expand MAT as well as prevention of addiction in vulnerable minority communities. Crown Medical, a culturally specific nonprofit community clinic in the inner city of Minneapolis, works to bridge the gap in health care disparities, particularly for individuals who are minorities and uninsured. The clinic offers office-based buprenorphine treatment and substance misuse counseling programs, among other mental health services.
- **Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center** will open a native-specific drop-in center to support urban Native women and Two Spirit/Native LGBTQ relatives. The center will be grounded in indigenous healing philosophies to help those struggling with the combined challenges of substance/OUD, mental health/trauma conditions, homelessness and/or commercial exploitation/sex trafficking. The drop-in center will provide respite in a welcoming and safe environment; immediate-needs services such as a safe sleeping area, shower and basic hygiene supplies; connection to harm reduction services, assessment, and medical and mental health care; and the full range of treatment options, including MAT.
- **CLUES** will provide culturally responsive, evidence-based treatment services by developing and

delivering office-based MAT program targeted to the Latino community. Recognizing that language barriers, lack of culturally responsive providers, and the high rate of uninsured individuals in the Latino community create formidable barriers to treatment, our proposed intervention will ensure that the appropriate services and funding are in place to provide critical opioid treatment.

- **Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota** will provide culturally specific outreach and access services to the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the seven-county metropolitan area. The approach is to utilize a collaborative model with four other community-based culturally specific providers serving the Lao, Bhutanese, Vietnamese, Karen, Karenni, Hmong, and Cambodian communities.
- **Alliance Wellness** will provide MAT and supports to the African American community with culturally specific focus on the East African community in Minnesota.
- **Allina Health** will be creating a Tele-Addiction program utilizing treatment, prevention, and recovery through this program. Allina Health's Tele-Addiction program offers real-time, remote, face-to-face interactions with patients via telehealth: Allina Health addiction providers collaborate with primary care providers, emergency departments, and hospitalists for patient selection and referrals. The clinic's physicians, social workers, and nurses refer patients who have started on suboxone as an inpatient or in the emergency departments to Allina Health's Tele-Addiction program for follow-up and long-term care. Providers from other systems can refer to the program, and patients themselves can also self-refer to the program. Patients receive therapeutic services from a licensed psychologist; medication management from an addiction medicine physician; and support from advanced practice providers, including nurses with specialized training.

#### Mobile Services

- **Avivo** will provide outreach to individuals struggling with opioid use through mobile assessments and immediate, direct connections to the chemical and mental health services. A care coordination team will help individuals access benefits and services, such as food assistance, employment, or expunging a criminal record. Avivo will also leverage strong relationships with community partners, NACC, and Minnesota's Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Red Lake Nation) to ensure that client needs are met quickly.
- **MOST** helps individuals using or in recovery from opiate drug use by providing support and connections to community resources, such as:
  - Funding for emergencies and transportation
  - Insurance support and funding to help cover costs of suboxone
  - Free naloxone
  - Treatment and recovery resources, including MAT, chemical health assessments, and county services

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- 14 programs were expanded to serve individuals receiving MAT.
- 1,511 individual clients received MAT services.
- 30,580 naloxone kits have been purchased, and 37,905 naloxone kits have been distributed over the duration of the SOR grant in its entirety.
- 7,196 trainings have been reported over the entirety of the SOR grant.
- 1,178 individuals received recovery support services.

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