

# 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): Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) received a total of \$53 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$220.8 million in SOR funding.

## Overview of Pennsylvania's efforts to address opioid misuse and use disorders

DDAPP has initiated strategic goals to reduce stigma, intensify primary prevention, strengthen treatment systems, and empower sustained recovery. DDAP continues to develop comprehensive initiatives to battle the opioid crisis, with a continued focus on increasing access to MAT and initiatives centered around evidence-based practices. The initiatives are holistic and sustainable and help DDAP tie programs to community needs, ensuring that the Commonwealth is helping the most vulnerable people who are battling OUD.

STR/SOR funds are being utilized to focus on best practices and implementation for guidelines of care for all individuals, with particular focus on special populations such as pregnant women, veterans, adolescents, and seniors. Pennsylvania provides a 24/7/365 helpline which boasts a warm handoff transfer for all individuals in need of treatment. STR/SOR funds are also being utilized for an anti-stigma campaign that highlights diverse and multicultural individuals.

## Innovative service delivery models

Pennsylvania has developed comprehensive educational programming in the evidence-based areas of Motivational Interviewing (MI), cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), and trauma-informed care (TIC), as well as deploying the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) patient placement criteria and best practices related to MAT. DDAP is applying evidence-based learning mechanisms to go beyond traditional training to ensure knowledge transfer and fidelity to each practice. Designed for personalized learning, each curriculum employs direct and informal instruction, to include experiential and cooperative learning up to 8 months after initial training. Through long-term case review and quality improvement planning, these allow clinicians to test and enhance skills with the benefit of expert coaching and feedback. To date, 3,000 providers have received intensive instruction in MI, CBT, and TIC. In addition, approximately 8,500 individuals have completed training on the ASAM patient placement criteria. Lastly, a comprehensive and multitiered training program in CBT was pilot held in February 2020.

DDAP is contracting with the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA) to provide program evaluation services to several narcotic treatment programs across the Commonwealth. The goal of this project is to enhance existing clinical programming utilizing a phased approach, which includes program evaluation, staff training and observation, case consultation, and implementation of an evidence-based intensive outpatient program within the program.

## Building workforce capacity

- **Opioid Stewardship:** Funding is being used toward improving the quality of prescribing practices through prescriber education. Education has focused on opioid prescribing guidelines, use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), sound clinical workflows, effective tapering of opioids, referral to treatment, and how to sustain the culture of change. Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Pennsylvania Medical Society are in the development phase of four more continuing medical education modules with an expected release date of March 2020.
- **MAT Summits:** DDAP, in coordination with DOH, convened eight regional MAT summits in the fall of 2019. The purpose of the summits was to promote awareness of MAT options, provide strategies for success in using MAT, and increase the number of practitioners using the ASAM waiver to prescribe buprenorphine in an office-based setting. Eighty-five medical providers attended the ASAM waiver training, and nearly 500 participants attended the conference sessions.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

- **Loan Repayment Program:** DDAP in collaboration with DOH launched the state's first Loan Repayment Program for health care professionals serving individuals with OUD. As of July 2019, 91 individuals were awarded from 23 different counties. The Loan Repayment Program awarded a total of \$4,779,627, with an average award of \$52,523.

## Preventing opioid misuse before it starts

Pennsylvania has utilized a substantial amount of STR/SOR funding for prevention efforts, including:

- **PDMP:** Funding was used to expand and facilitate widespread use of the PDMP system as a clinical decision tool. Through the PDMP, data are integrated at the point of care, which significantly improves access to patient data and increases and facilitates referrals into treatment. Approximately 97,000 prescribers and delegates have registered with the PDMP, with the program’s database averaging more than 1.1 million monthly searches. As of September 2019, Pennsylvania’s PDMP is sharing data with 21 other states, military health systems, and the District of Columbia.

## Education and public awareness

- **Multi-Year Prevention Initiatives:** DDAP, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) launched a multi-year prevention initiative working with five communities and using two evidence-based programs (*Botvin LifeSkills Training* and the *Strengthening Families Program*). These programs provide middle school prevention and education, support parents of students in this age group, and engage community organizations to develop supportive prevention-focused community efforts. This initiative continues to support the Learning Communities Prevention Program to discuss best practices. In addition, this initiative maintains an ongoing relationship with Penn State’s Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) project, which created and promotes prevention media messaging. To date, 47 *LifeSkills Training* facilitators have been trained, 86 *Strengthening Families Program* facilitators have been trained, and 11 sites have joined the Learning Communities Prevention Program.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** DDAP has done substantial work in advertising Pennsylvania’s Get Help Now helpline. Since its inception, the helpline has received more than 52,846 calls, with 46% of those individuals being directly connected to treatment through a warmline transfer.
- **Veterans in Crisis Outreach:** Between July and September 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs conducted an educational media campaign geared specifically toward veterans. The radio, television, and digital advertisements highlighted some of the unique challenges experienced by veterans and included three scenarios: a male veteran struggling with homelessness; a female veteran living with a disability; and a female veteran, formerly an athlete, living with a disability. The campaign produced 24 million digital impressions with 104,000 clicks and over 1 million completed video views.
- **Opioid Prevention in Higher Education:** DDAP awarded over \$900,000 to 13 different educational institutions spanning 19 counties. This funding opportunity focuses on preventing and reducing OUD on college campuses and within higher education settings. Activities being funded under this award include naloxone training and distribution, campus recovery support activities, marketing and social media campaigns aimed at reducing stigma around OUD and increasing awareness regarding how students can reach out for help on their college campus.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

**Naloxone Distribution:** DDAP has partnered with PCCD and DOH to deliver naloxone to as many individuals as possible within the Commonwealth. Between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, these agencies distributed over 14,000 naloxone kits throughout the Commonwealth. Distribution

efforts targeted organizations and settings where the highest-risk individuals would benefit from receiving this antidote. These distribution efforts included county health centers, narcotic treatment programs, first responders, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

## Increasing access to treatment

Pennsylvania has utilized a substantial amount of STR/SOR funding for treatment efforts, including:

- **Serving the uninsured and underinsured:** The largest amount of treatment money spent through STR/SOR funding has been through formulated allocations for the Commonwealth's 47 Single County Authorities (SCAs). These funds have assisted in securing treatment and support services for individuals who are uninsured and underinsured. SCAs are responsible for the oversight of substance use disorder (SUD) services delivered at the local level.
  - Pennsylvania has established priority populations in addressing homelessness, pregnant women, veterans, and individuals exiting correctional facilities.
  - Through SOR funding, the Commonwealth has funded a health home for pregnant women with OUD to provide comprehensive physical health, mental health, and SUD services to pregnant women with OUD.
- **Care coordination:** In addition to enhancing MAT and the full continuum of care services, funding has been utilized to increase care coordination provided by the SCAs or their contracted case management and recovery support providers.
- **Coordinated Medication-Assisted Treatment:** DDAP and DOH supported the Pennsylvania Coordinated Medication-Assisted Treatment (PacMAT) program, which continues to expand. Seven awardees from across Pennsylvania provided services and supports to individuals with OUD to access MAT and other critical treatments and supports. To date, over 6,700 individuals with OUD have been started on MAT and 394 medical providers have completed their waiver training as a result of this initiative. In January 2020, another round of PacMAT was awarded to six grantees across the Commonwealth.

## Supporting long-term recovery

Pennsylvania has also utilized a significant amount of STR/SOR funding for recovery support efforts, including:

- **Recovery Support Services:** In 2019, slightly over \$2.1 million was awarded to five Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) to provide vital services to individuals in recovery from OUD. These RCOs will expand and enhance recovery support services, including recovery coaching through Certified Recovery Specialists, telephonic supports, the provision of education and employment supports, job coaching, resume writing, engagement in General Education Diploma (GED) services, additional life-skills support groups, and delivery of substance-free social activities.
- **Employment Support Services:** Currently, DDAP is seeking to award 9 to 15 grants up to \$200,000 each to applicants with the capacity to provide employment support services to individuals in recovery from OUD. In addition, applicants are asked to provide services and support to employers who are seeking to hire and employ individuals in recovery from OUD.
- **Family and Recovery Support Services:** Recognizing the significant impact OUD has on the family system, DDAP is funding four to eight awards of up to \$500,000 each to entities with the capacity to deliver recovery support services to individuals living with OUD and their family members.

These supports are delivered via Certified Recovery Specialists, Certified Family Recovery Specialists, telephonic supports, and support groups.

## Serving special populations

- **Pregnancy Support Services:** DDAP awarded over \$3.4 million to nine organizations supporting pregnant and postpartum women struggling with OUD. The pregnancy support services project focused on coordinating a full continuum of care and support for pregnant women, postpartum women, children, and families. Support services funded are postpartum health care; parenting education; provision of childcare during periods in which women are engaged in treatment; recovery support activities such as groups, coaching, and mentoring; providing trauma-informed mental health and OUD treatment; and relapse prevention.
- **Police Diversion to Treatment:** In 2019, DDAP launched a Police Diversion to Treatment Funding Initiative Application to all SCAs. DDAP awarded \$1.5 million to seven SCAs that created or expanded collaborations between local law enforcement, treatment professionals, and recovery support providers to establish a diversion program for individuals experiencing legal consequences related to an OUD.
- **MAT for Individuals in State Correctional Institutions:** Pennsylvania has significantly expanded access to MAT for those who are incarcerated. As of April 2018, injectable naltrexone is available at State Correctional Institutions (SCIs) for medically appropriate inmates prior to their institutional release. The state has also hired an addiction medicine specialist to serve individuals suffering from SUD in correctional facilities. Pennsylvania has also begun a buprenorphine pilot program at an SCI for women.
- **MAT for Individuals in County Correctional Facilities:** DDAP is partnering with PCCD to increase access to MAT in county jails. Nine county jails were awarded a total of \$1,230,464, with the goal of providing MAT to 460 inmates. This funding supports the implementation of evidence-based services to enhance the delivery of MAT, including CBT, recovery support services, and additional staff to support this programming.
- **Drug Courts:** In collaboration with PCCD, funds were provided to 11 counties in Pennsylvania to bolster local drug court programs. Services included individual/group counseling provided through a Juvenile Treatment Court; children and youth services provided through a Family Treatment Court; and the establishment of a drug court in a county that did not have one previously.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

Through SOR funding, DDAP has launched a housing support services project funding 18 urban and rural counties throughout the Commonwealth. The goal of the initiative is to help OUD individuals to remain engaged in treatment while providing the necessary support services to promote recovery and personal independence. The project includes the following services:

- Comprehensive, evidence-based case management to support individuals on their road to recovery;
  - Housing support services and education to assist individuals in living full and independent lives; and
  - Short-term rental assistance, as needed, to ensure that housing is not a barrier to recovery.
- This intensive case management and support services initiative has assisted over 3,000

individuals from April to December of 2019. The types of services and number of individuals are as follows:

Service Category	Number of Individuals Receiving Service
Case Management	1,023
Housing Support Services	874
Housing Education Services	746
Short-Term Rental Assistance (provided in a single month)	599
Emergency Financial Assistance / One-Time Costs (provided in a single month)	165
Employment / Job Services (provided and/or referrals)	197
Transportation Services	161

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. 1H79TI083343 from SAMHSA. The information contained in this Brief was provided and verified by the state/jurisdiction. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.