

Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse and 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 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): Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

In FY 2017 and 2018, Wisconsin received a total of \$15.1 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through 2020, the state received a total of \$46.8 million in SOR funding.

Overview of Wisconsin's efforts to address opioid and stimulant misuse and disorders

The Wisconsin STR and SOR projects focus on reducing overdose deaths, preventing and reducing other opioid- and stimulant-related harms, improving access and quality of treatment services, and developing and expanding treatment and recovery services across the state's communities, through implementation of the following objectives:

- Develop and expand infrastructure and access for opioid treatment services, with an emphasis on all forms of MAT;
- Address stigma and systemic barriers that prevent access to services and limit availability of evidence-based treatment;

- Provide lifesaving naloxone for opioid overdose reversal through partnerships with recovery organizations, public health departments, behavioral health and health care providers, law enforcement, and first responders;
- Develop the continuum of care to include hospital- and community-based recovery coaches to provide outreach and support to individuals experiencing opioid or stimulant use and/or overdose;
- Provide treatment funds for uninsured or underinsured persons and in rural, underserved, and high-need areas of the state;
- Develop and implement the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline to assist people in finding treatment and recovery resources;
- Expand opioid prevention efforts at regional prevention centers that support local prevention coalitions across the state;
- Develop media campaigns that educate the public about the risks of opioids and stimulants, promote healthy alternatives, and provide information about overdose reversal and treatment;
- Support access to harm reduction programs that provide outreach directly to people who are using opioids;
- Provide training in evidence-based approaches for health care personnel, human service workers, and direct care providers;
- Build linkages between jails and prisons and community treatment services to address post-incarceration overdose risks;
- Improve methods for measuring and tracking opioid and stimulant prevalence and impacts across communities to better target interventions and initiatives;
- Provide direct support and collaborative learning opportunities for Wisconsin counties and Tribes struggling to implement opioid service programs in their communities; and
- Develop telehealth and mobile service delivery systems to increase access to care in rural or underserved areas.

Innovative service delivery models

- Learning collaborative roundtables
- Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit
- Dose of Reality campaign
- MAT expansion
- Emergency department induction on buprenorphine
- Mobile OUD treatment services
- Addiction Recovery Helpline
- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes)
- ED2Recovery program

Building workforce capacity

Wisconsin SOR grant program coordinators facilitate learning collaboratives for grantee counties, Tribes, and provider agencies to receive technical assistance and share information for implementation strategies, quality improvement, addressing barriers, and sustainability.

Promoting Best Practices in Substance Use Disorders

The Wisconsin SOR grant program also offers training through the Wisconsin Center for Urban Population Health to facilitate promoting best practices training for the state. Promoting Best Practices in Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) aims to provide a program platform and opportunities for advancing collaborative and innovative behavioral health education, capacity training, peer-to-peer learning, and evaluation to professionals working in the SUD field.

Training sessions on SUD treatment best practices include Evidence-Based Approaches to Stimulant Use Disorder Treatment, ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) Criteria Courses, SUD and Pregnancy Certificate Programs, Matrix Training, Trauma and Resilience-Responsive Care, and Youth Justice.

Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit

Wisconsin hosts an annual Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit, focused on educating providers and community leaders about emerging developments in the field and implementation of promising practices in opioid and stimulant response from across the state and nation.

Project ECHO and Wisconsin CONNECT

The Wisconsin SOR program also continues to support the development and training of the workforce for treatment of opioid and stimulant use disorders through Project ECHO training and coaching webinars and the Wisconsin CONNECT behavioral health provider training program, which offers courses in Matrix Model, Trauma-Informed Care, Contingency Management, Buprenorphine X-Waiver training, and treatment services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Collaborating with public and private entities

Wisconsin partnered with county and Tribal human services agencies in over 21 high-need communities to offer opioid and stimulant use disorder treatment and recovery support services. In addition, Wisconsin established collaborative partnerships with community treatment providers and health care systems to develop and expand opioid and stimulant treatment and recovery services. SOR funds were also made available through prevention coalitions and public health departments to partner with their local jurisdictions to offer naloxone trainings and kit distributions across the state in 32 communities.

Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

Wisconsin has a contract with the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY) to coordinate regional prevention centers to support and distribute targeted funding to local prevention coalitions. AWY made STR and SOR funding available to any local coalition with adequate resources to implement specific strategies aimed at reducing the availability of and access to opioids and stimulants for nonmedical purposes and to prevent the consequences of opioid and stimulant misuse. Funds enhanced local coalition-led efforts through use of evidence-based prevention activities.

Funding was made available via an application process to all prevention coalitions. Sixty-three local coalitions were approved to provide prevention activities from a menu of strategy options. The following programs were implemented.

Drug Take-Back Events and Drop Boxes

Drug take-back events and permanent medication disposal drop box placements were implemented to provide safe disposal of unused and expired medications to reduce prescription drug diversion and

protect the environment. Coalitions and law enforcement work together to host take-back events, which may be a 1-day event at a specific location or a traveling event (e.g., coordinating collection with Meals on Wheels deliveries). Funding can support installation of a permanent drop box, collection bags, or increasing drug drop box security, along with the printing and promotion of the take-back events and of the addresses and hours of permanent drop boxes.

Prescription Drug Deactivation Units, Return Envelopes, and Lockboxes

Prescription drug deactivation units offer an option to conveniently, safely, and responsibly dispose of unused and expired medications to reduce the potential for diversion. Coalitions, first responders, clinics, pharmacies, and home health care providers are encouraged to work together to distribute prescription drug deactivation units to individuals or populations who are unlikely to take part in take-back events or come to permanent drug drop box locations. This strategy is ideal for rural areas with few permanent drug drop boxes, populations unlikely to bring unwanted medications to a drop box located inside a law enforcement agency, and homebound populations.

TakeAway Medication Recovery System envelopes provide a convenient, safe, and responsible option to dispose of unused medications in order to reduce the potential for diversion. Coalitions, first responders, clinics, pharmacies, and home health care providers are encouraged to work together to distribute TakeAway envelopes to individuals who receive opioid and stimulant medications and/or individuals who are unlikely or unable to take part in take-back events or come to permanent drug drop box locations. Unused prescription medications can be sealed in the self-addressed, stamped envelope and mailed to the disposal company.

Prescription drug lockboxes and lockbags provide a tool for people to safely secure medications in their homes in order to prevent diversion of medications for nonmedical purposes. Coalitions partner with first responders, health care clinics, home health care providers, senior centers, and other community providers to distribute lockboxes throughout the community to individuals prescribed opioids and stimulants.

Education and public awareness

Community Education Events

Community education events were held to inform and educate community members, elected officials, business owners, and health care providers about the risk of addiction associated with opioids and stimulants, the risk of diversion associated with the improper storage and disposal of opioids and stimulants, and the risk of overdose associated with using opioids and stimulants in ways other than prescribed. Examples of community education events include speaking engagements at schools, community centers, senior centers, or businesses; virtual information dissemination through health fairs or parent/teacher organizations; and virtual cultural events such as Gathering of Native Americans or talking circles. Events have a focus on opioid and stimulant use and misuse prevention, provide clear messaging related to opioids and stimulants, and offer solutions and resources to the audience.

Public Awareness Campaigns

SOR funds were utilized to support multiple avenues of awareness and prevention such as Dose of Reality and Real Talks campaigns. Through these campaigns, in partnership with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, materials are provided for special events like the Drug Take Back Day events. The NARCAN Direct Program is funded to increase prevention efforts by

offering training of medical providers, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), fire departments, local law enforcement, and members of local communities.

Public awareness campaigns were implemented to inform and educate community members about the improper use of prescription opioids and stimulants, warn consumers about the dangers of inadequate storage and disposal of prescription opioids and stimulants, and encourage positive action. The Dose of Reality opioid overdose prevention campaign provides prevention materials to the community. SOR funds are utilized to update materials based on stakeholder and focus group feedback and to include education and information on synthetic opioids like fentanyl, naloxone, and the Good Samaritan Law. The materials are utilized by prevention coalitions throughout Wisconsin and are available for any interested individuals/agencies and the correctional system. Coalitions are encouraged to use other campaigns to support their stimulant prevention efforts.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Wisconsin has used STR and SOR funding to implement naloxone training and distribution across the state. They partner with local public health departments, county and Tribal behavioral health clinics, law enforcement and first responder organizations, local jails, Recovery Community Organizations, prevention coalitions, and substance use treatment providers to provide NARCAN Direct services at the local level. Wisconsin has also contracted with University of Wisconsin–Madison to develop an overdose response toolkit for hospitals. The State has also used SOR funding to create a toolkit for counties and Tribes on best practices for responding to an opioid overdose. Utilizing grant-funded data initiatives, Wisconsin is able to provide overdose alerts to local county health officers with emergent trends related to local overdose risks.

Increasing access to treatment

MAT and Treatment Service Expansion

Utilizing STR funds, Wisconsin supported counties and Tribes to develop programs and infrastructure for the treatment of OUD. A request for applications was issued to all counties and Tribes, with priority given to those identified as high-need or underserved areas. The programs helped to develop and increase access to MAT for OUD, and they were required to provide at least two forms of medications for the treatment of OUD by the second year. Programs also provided increased access for individuals who were uninsured or underinsured. Thirty counties and Tribes have received funding through this ongoing initiative with SOR resources.

In addition to partnering with counties and Tribes to develop local treatment services, Wisconsin also promoted the expansion of evidence-based practices and MAT with nonprofit treatment providers. A Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement was issued for organizations to apply to build and implement their infrastructure to offer MAT. To date, eight organizations have been developing and expanding their capacity to offer comprehensive treatment for opioid and stimulant use disorders, including services across levels of care from residential to outpatient services, and services for special populations, such as women with children or pregnant women.

Wisconsin also utilized SOR funds to develop new service structures and innovative practices that aligned with evidence-based or promising service models across other states. Wisconsin used funds to implement hospital-based emergency department induction on buprenorphine for individuals who present with acute OUD or overdose. Participating hospitals have addressed stigma related to OUD and MAT and continue to grow and expand access to these lifesaving services.

Wisconsin has also partnered with local medical and behavioral health providers to expand access to treatment through use of telehealth, as well as expansion of opioid and stimulant treatment services and development of mobile OUD treatment services in high-need areas of the state. With a combination of urban and rural service areas, these innovative models have allowed greater access and reduced barriers in underserved communities. Lastly, Wisconsin has also partnered with Federally Qualified Health Centers to implement MAT and opioid and stimulant treatment as part of an integrated care model.

Addiction Recovery Helpline

Wisconsin also partnered with United Way and 211 to develop an Addiction Recovery Helpline that links individuals with treatment and recovery resources.

Addiction Medicine Consultation Hotline

Wisconsin also developed an Addiction Consultation Provider Hotline that is staffed by trained and experienced behavioral health and medical professionals with subject matter expertise in treatment of SUDs, who provide real-time consultation services for prescribers that are facing challenges in treating individuals.

Supporting long-term recovery

The state contracted with Wisconsin Voices for Recovery to provide peer support/recovery coaching to people experiencing an opioid overdose through a network of 13 community organizations and 22 hospitals located in 17 counties. This ED2Recovery (Emergency Department to Recovery) program continues to grow and expand and has provided a critical role in the expansion of and access to recovery support services across Wisconsin. SOR-funded treatment services also employ and utilize networks of recovery coaches and peer supports as program components to promote long-term recovery and increase engagement and retention in treatment services.

Serving special populations

STR- and SOR-funded agencies in Wisconsin are required to ensure that pregnant women receive priority admission for services. Funds are used to bridge gaps in care for special populations, such as pregnant women or individuals transitioning to the community from criminal justice–related institutions.

Wisconsin also partners with 7 of the 11 sovereign Tribal nations that share their land. STR and SOR funds are provided to Tribal behavioral health clinics or Tribal health centers for naloxone training and distribution, treatment services, MAT development and expansion, and recovery support services. Although Wisconsin Tribes are represented in a disproportionate number of overdose deaths, program data also indicate that the outreach and engagement efforts through SOR include a greater proportion of individuals from Wisconsin Tribes that are receiving services.

Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- The State placed more than 30 permanent prescription drug drop box placements.
- Between 45 and 100 drug take-back events are held each year.
- Over 1,700 prescription drug lockboxes were distributed.
- More than 16,000 prescription drug deactivation units were ordered and distributed.
- More than 8,500 TakeAway Medication Recovery System envelopes were distributed.

- Between 55 and 65 Town Hall and community education events were held annually, reaching more than 5,000 attendees; Dose of Reality prevention and educational information was distributed at these events.
- Over 2,500 individuals receive treatment and recovery support services annually.
- Expanded the number of trained prescribers and treatment service capacity in counties and Tribal nations.
- Annual statewide trainings focused on trauma and the opioid crisis have had over 500 in attendance.

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