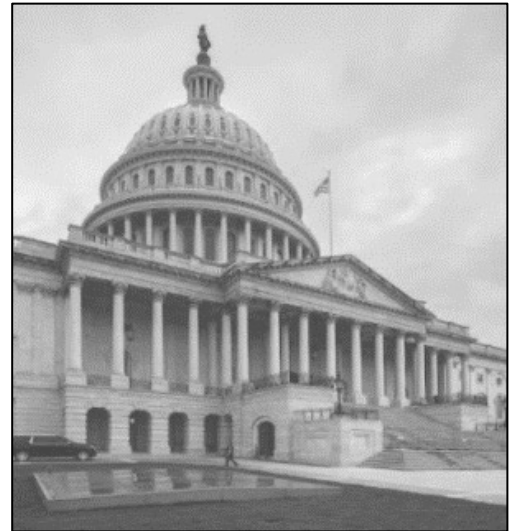


Idaho SOR Initiatives

Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse & Use Disorders: The Impact of State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the SOR grant program. SOR addresses the opioid overdose crisis by providing resources to states and territories to increase access to Federal Drug Administration-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and to reduce unmet treatment needs and opioid-related overdose deaths with prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports. In 2020, SOR expanded to support evidence-based services for stimulant misuse and use disorders (StUD), including cocaine and methamphetamine.

This brief was developed by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) as part of a series of state reports intended to showcase initiatives across the continuum of care that states have implemented with SOR funds. The ORN is a SAMHSA-funded technical assistance and training center that works with states, health professionals, community organizations, the justice system, and individuals in all 50 states and nine territories to support efforts to address the opioid and stimulant crisis.



Single State Agency (SSA): Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health (IDHW)

IDHW has received \$46,169,093 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$8,214,969. Idaho has used SOR to establish the foundation of the state's opioid use disorder (OUD) and MOUD provider network. It has successfully supported peer-based recovery support services within Idaho's communities through initiatives such as providing recovery coach services in emergency departments, as well as jails and/or prisons. The state has also used SOR to launch and expand Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs. Furthermore, Idaho has invested in prescriber education, residential treatment, naloxone distribution, and workforce development, and has provided naloxone to first responders across the state.



Idaho's goals include:

1. Increase access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, including MOUD
2. Increase access to SUD recovery support services, including peer support programs
3. Support implementation and operation of community-based law enforcement diversion efforts

4. Improve naloxone distribution efforts
5. Increase financial support for Project ECHO Opioid and other educational opportunities
6. Increase harm reduction activities
7. Expand Housing Assistance Program

Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Idaho has used SOR to support evidence-based prevention programming, such as All Stars to prevent alcohol and other substances use for as long as possible during the most at-risk years for adolescents.

All Stars Prevention Program

All Stars is a continuum of prevention programs for Gem County's grades 4–12, designed to delay the onset of risky behaviors in adolescents. All Stars aligns with the National Health Education Standards, allowing for easy integration into any health or wellness curriculum. It includes an engaging, student-centered, and fun approach, coupled with a highly effective parent/adult component. The elements of the program make it a respected, well-liked, and enjoyable program for community-based organizations, schools, parents, and kids.

Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Idaho uses several mechanisms to reduce overdoses, like overdose reversal agent distribution and education.

Naloxone Distribution

Through the convenience of an online request form, organizations can request complimentary naloxone/Narcan, coupled with education and training for administration. Eligibility is open to any organization seeking kits for both personal use and potential redistribution within their community.

In 2022, 25,467 naloxone kits were distributed, and more than 1,200 overdose reversals reported.

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Idaho has used SOR to support allowable harm reduction strategies.

Harm Reduction Vending Machines (HRVMs)

A HRVM is a Safe Syringe Program (SSP) service model that operates similarly to a coin-operated soda vending machine. Instead of sodas, it stocks harm reduction supplies typical of a traditional SSP, such as hepatitis C test kits, condoms, and naloxone. In July 2021, Idaho became the second state in the U.S. to install a HRVM. Using SOR II funds, three additional HRVMs were purchased and placed within the state. Beyond acquisition of the HRVMs, SOR II funds also supported the salaries to staff the machines. These staff members assist users with machine operations and provide connections to treatment and recovery support services.

HIV/Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Training and Testing

In 2023, SOR funds were used to integrate rapid HCV and HIV testing into SUD and mental health settings. Additionally, funds were allocated to facilitate a monthly HCV and HIV learning collaborative. This collaborative incorporates insights from experts on conducting HCV and HIV rapid testing, delivering risk reduction counseling, providing referrals to prevention services, and offering navigation tools to connect individuals who test positive to the appropriate care.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Idaho has used SOR to enhance access to OUD treatment, including MOUD, by partnering with provider networks and expanding treatment access.

Access to Treatment Services

Access to treatment has been expanded by funding the Managed Services Contractor of the Division of Behavioral Health, which oversees the Behavioral Health Planning and Administration (BPA) SUD provider network. This comprehensive network offers a spectrum of services, encompassing MOUD, intensive outpatient programs, outpatient programs, residential programs, and partial hospitalization programs.

Helping Other People Engage (HOPE) Project

SOR has supported the HOPE Project, providing inpatient treatment in the Walker Center for drug or alcohol addiction patients. This grant initially allowed up to 50 eligible individuals to receive inpatient treatment free of cost. Through additional SOR funding, HOPE continues to offer a comprehensive continuum of care to Idahoans dealing with OUD and/or StUD who require residential treatment.

HOPE is a 60-day residential treatment program that incorporates a social worker. This professional identifies, combines, and accesses community resources, creating a longitudinal addiction treatment model tailored to each HOPE participant, aiming to enhance long-term outcomes. The social worker guides the participant through the process of entering residential treatment, any necessary hospitalizations to address medical and/or mental health needs, and coordinates services upon completion of the residential stay. Following discharge, HOPE participants have the option to return to the Walker Center to prevent or recover from a relapse. To further enhance HOPE participants' success, the social worker provides case management services to each participant for one year post-discharge.



Rural Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT)

OBOT services are now accessible in multiple rural counties that historically lacked MOUD access. This achievement resulted from existing OBOTs forming partnerships with rural medical facilities and establishing a standing schedule at each location for services. This arrangement allows providers to travel and deliver OBOT services at these rural locations throughout the month. Through startup funds, four new OBOT clinics have been established within the state, further expanding access.

Expansion of Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

Using startup funds, two new OTPs were established in east and north Idaho, elevating the total number of OTPs in Idaho to six. Prior to the inception of these additional OTPs, access to methadone was limited to the Treasure Valley, encompassing Boise and its surrounding areas.

OTP Contingency Management Program

Idaho has initiated a contingency management program based in OTPs, aiming for a minimum client retention period of six weeks to ensure attainment of their therapeutic medication level. OTP has demonstrated a 75% higher likelihood that clients will persist in services upon reaching their therapeutic dosing level.

Initiative Funding for Co-Occurring Treatment Providers

Using startup funds, Idaho opened a new outpatient co-occurring treatment center. This facility provides American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) care levels 1 and 2.1 to adults in need of SUD and co-occurring disorder counseling. The program enables individuals who do not meet the criteria for residential programming to access outpatient counseling services customized to their needs. This includes case management, individual sessions, group sessions, and peer support.

Expansion of Available SUD Residential Beds

In February 2022, Idaho allocated funds to increase the capacity of an existing residential treatment program (ASAM 3.1 and 3.5) by 35 beds.

Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Idaho has used SOR to support individuals' recovery by providing community-based support services in different settings (e.g., emergency departments, primary care clinics, crisis centers), recovery housing services, and university-based supports.

Individualized Recovery Support Services

Access to recovery support services based on individual needs is offered through the BPA SUD provider network. Recovery support services provided through the BPA network include, but are not limited to, recovery housing, recovery coaching, case management, transportation, and urinalysis testing.



Community-Based Recovery Support Services

Recovery support services are provided through Idaho's community recovery centers, each of which provides recovery supports tailored to their community's specific needs, such as:

- Coaching to assist individuals on their road to recovery
- Satellite recovery programs at universities for students
- Jail and prison reentry services in rural locations
- Organized pro-sober activities
- Targeted support groups
- Community outreach and education

Additional community-based recovery support services include warm handoffs from emergency departments, primary care clinics, and crisis centers. These services connect individuals to a recovery coach before discharge. The coaches engage with these individuals as they return home, assisting with appointments and connections to recovery support services for as long as needed.

Housing Assistance Program (HAP)

HAP is designed to assist individuals in SUD treatment or those who have successfully completed treatment in the past 90 days in achieving stable housing. Participants who meet eligibility requirements are provided with



up to \$8,500 for six months to help with rent, mortgage, and/or utility payments. Additionally, participants receive a monthly case manager check-in for resources and support.

University-Based Recovery Supports

Funds support a network of recovery support groups and comprehensive resources tailored to the needs of students, faculty, and alumni affiliated with Idaho universities.

Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Idaho has several initiatives targeted to Tribal/Urban Indians and justice-involved populations.

Support for Tribal Programs

Through a partnership with an Idaho tribe, funding has been used to hire a recovery service coordinator and three full-time recovery coaches to collaborate with Tribal emergency medical services (EMS) and other local medical providers. Their goal is to develop and establish protocols for warm-handoff services for individuals who experience an opioid overdose.

Another tribal partnership involves supporting a contingency management program for individuals attending their first follow-up MOUD appointment. At this appointment, individuals can select an incentive, such as a gas or Uber voucher, with a value of up to \$15.00. If individuals consistently engage in treatment, attending MOUD follow-up appointments regularly and on time, they can continue to receive incentives, totaling no more than \$75.00 per year of their treatment.

Re-Entry Programming

Idaho's re-entry programs serve individuals released from prison and/or jail and who are returning to their communities. Re-entry services include both pre- and post-release case management and recovery coaching. Case managers and recovery coaches develop individuals' re-entry/recovery plans and assist with connections to resources such as treatment (including MOUD when appropriate), housing, transportation, vocational support, and other community services as needed.



About the Opioid Response Network (ORN): ORN is a group of diverse individuals and organizations working collaboratively to address the opioid and stimulant crisis. Funded by SAMHSA's SOR/Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) Technical Assistance (TA) grant, ORN works with states, health professionals, community organizations, the justice system, and individuals in all 50 states and nine territories to provide education and training. **Visit the ORN website [here](#) or request training or TA [here](#).**

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