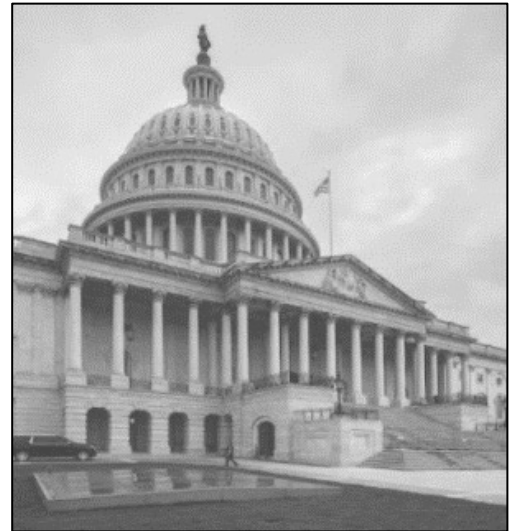


Iowa SOR Initiatives

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): Iowa Health and Human Services Department Division of Behavioral Health



The Iowa Health and Human Services Department Division of Behavioral Health has received \$35.9 million in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$9.4 million. Iowa's goal for the SOR grant has been to improve and expand the continuum of care for individuals who use misuse opioids and stimulants. The funded prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts for Iowans aim to reduce the death toll and other negative consequences resulting from the opioid and stimulant crises.

Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

The Iowa SSA has used SOR to implement several prevention programs, including community education, media campaigns, and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT).

Local Prevention Education

Each of 19 service areas in the state have a full-time prevention staff position tasked with providing information and education to the communities within their area. They provide presentations to key



stakeholders on topics including stigma, opioid overdose and naloxone, stimulants, primary prevention, and information for friends and families of individuals with substance use disorder (SUD).

Media Campaigns

“See the Person, Not the Addiction” and “Be Prepared to Save a Life” are two statewide media campaigns that are reducing stigma and raising awareness about access to overdose reversal agents. Additional campaigns about fake pills and other prevention messages are implemented on the local level according to need.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

SBIRT promotion, training, and services are provided through grant-funded healthcare staff and other service providers, such as hospitals, maternal health clinics, and federally qualified community health centers. SBIRT services expand SUD understanding among both healthcare providers and the general patient population and reduce the stigma of addressing substance use behaviors.

Prevention Capacity Support

Iowa works with experts from the Partners in Prevention Science Institute to provide needed expertise to community-level SOR prevention service providers, expanding the reach, quantity, and quality of technical assistance offered by state SOR staff.

Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Iowa has used SOR to support initiatives that provide access to overdose reversal medications. These naloxone distribution initiatives are described further below.

Naloxone Distribution

Iowa distributes naloxone through several mechanisms to ensure people have access to the lifesaving medication. The state developed a partnership with local pharmacies to allow for free naloxone access after completing an eligibility form. It has also partnered with a university pharmacy to allow Iowans to receive free naloxone by mail after a mobile visit with a pharmacist. Iowa provides free naloxone to law enforcement, first responders, schools, organizations, and businesses for onsite use after approving a request form. It also supports secondary naloxone distribution by allowing organizations to distribute it in their community.

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

The Iowa SSA has used SOR to implement programs aimed at reducing harms associated with opioid use disorder (OUD) and StUD, which are described below.

Harm Reduction Supply Distribution System

Iowans at high risk for overdose are often also at high risk of infection with HIV or Hepatitis C (HCV). Through collaboration with state and local HIV/HCV prevention efforts, approved harm reduction supplies are provided to community agencies for distribution.

iAccess Program

Through a university partnership, Iowans with SUD who are at risk for HIV/HCV can leverage telehealth and mailed medications to extend recovery support services and coordinate MOUD, HCV treatment, HIV Prep, and naloxone.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Iowa has implemented initiatives to increase access to OUD and StUD treatment throughout the state.

MOUD Medication Units

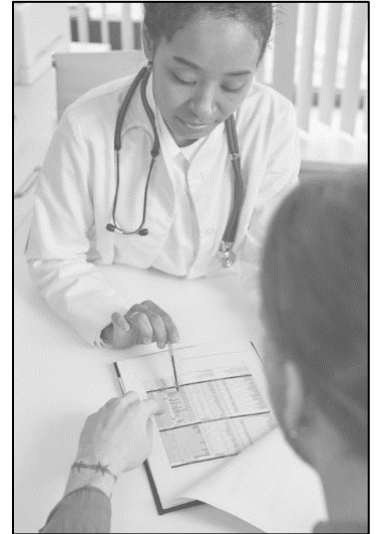
The state has expanded MOUD access through co-location of opioid treatment program (OTP) medication units onsite at other licensed treatment providers. This has made a huge impact on rural Iowans' ability to access evidence-based treatments outside of the three urban areas that traditionally operate OTPs. Services include access to all three FDA-approved MOUDs. Access to MOUD has decreased barriers to recovery like financial burden and long commutes and reduced stigma within the behavioral health providers hosting the medication units.

High-Risk Mitigation Programs

High-risk mitigation programs include care coordination with MOUD while incarcerated, as well as post-incarceration access to treatment, harm reduction, and recovery supports, including peer recovery coaching, wellness assistance, and transportation, among others.

Contingency Management

Due to the significant negative impact of methamphetamine use in Iowa, contingency management remains one of the evidence-based practices that most SOR-funded treatment providers offer.



Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Iowa has used SOR to expand access to recovery supports, including community centers, housing, and linkages to other services.

Recovery Support Services

Recovery support services are available to Iowans with a diagnosis of OUD or StUD who are seeking recovery. Iowa offers a menu of recovery support services, available at treatment and recovery service providers. It designates an average of \$2,000 per person through a voucher management system for priorities such as transportation, housing assistance, clothing and personal hygiene, wellness activities, and recovery coaching. This model was successfully implemented during past Access to Recovery grants and is a key facilitator of success in helping Iowans overcome obstacles to reach stable recovery from opioids and/or stimulants.



Recovery Community Centers

Iowa has funded the start-up of three recovery community centers where multiple pathways of recovery are supported through a variety of non-clinical services, such as telephone recovery calls, mutual aid meetings, interest groups, recovery coaching, and other community-specific opportunities.

Recovery Housing

Iowa's affiliate of the National Association for Recovery Residences is in development and supporting temporary certification of recovery housing providers through a neighboring state.

Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Iowa has used SOR to implement and support many programs that reach and serve populations of focus, including people in correctional settings and those who have overdosed.

MOUD in Prison and Correction Liaisons

Two components of the High-Risk Mitigation Program are targeting services for people in prison and those re-entering the community from incarceration. A partnership with Department of Corrections staff allows for MOUD to continue during incarceration. The Correction Liaison Program coordinates harm reduction and recovery support services during re-entry, as this is documented as a vulnerable timeframe for overdose and other risks.

Linkages to Outreach, Referral, and Engagement

Another component of the High-Risk Mitigation Program described above allows Iowans with a recent overdose, or at risk of overdose, to participate in a six-month support program focused on peer recovery coaching and care coordination.



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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