

Mississippi 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): Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services (DMH)

DMH has received \$40,804,935 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$14,404,935.

DMH's goals for SOR are to expand access to treatment and recovery support services for the uninsured and underinsured, raise awareness about the opioid crisis in Mississippi, and improve the provider workforce through training and development. Under SOR, the effort continues to bring treatment services to underserved communities, including those in rural settings, as well as vulnerable populations like pregnant and parenting women, both in face-to-face settings and through telehealth. "Stand Up, Mississippi" focuses on preventing opioid misuse in higher-risk occupations, such as construction, manufacturing, and food service industries, and calls for educating the general public and substance use disorder (SUD) providers.



Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Mississippi has used SOR to support prescription drop box locations and the “Stand Up, Mississippi” initiative.

Prescription Drop Box Locations

Through SOR, DMH was able to purchase 27 prescription drug drop boxes. Including the nine existing Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics drop boxes stationed in Mississippi Highway Patrol troop headquarters, Mississippians now have access to prescription drop boxes at 36 law enforcement agencies throughout the state, with plans for additional purchases and placements in the future.

Stand Up, Mississippi

Stand Up, Mississippi is a statewide initiative to put an end to the opioid crisis in the state and inspire all Mississippians to create a stronger and healthier future. This project is a collaborative effort by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Safety, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mississippi Department of Human Services, and Drug Enforcement Agency. The primary goals of this comprehensive effort are to improve public perception of people dealing with SUD, strengthen policies for prevention and treatment, and promote statewide partnerships to combat the opioid crisis in Mississippi. The Stand Up, Mississippi website also provides information on naloxone distribution locations.

Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Mississippi reduces overdoses through overdose reversal agent distribution and education.

Naloxone Distribution

DMH implemented a naloxone training program and distributed naloxone kits to law enforcement officers, fire departments, sheriff’s offices, and police departments. Additionally, SOR will expand on first responder sites and personnel, such as lifeguards, factory workers, restaurants, and bars. This would help Mississippi reach naloxone saturation.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Mississippi has used SOR to enhance access to treatment for OUD by expanding MOUD services and enhancing treatment provider curriculum.

MOUD Services

The various forms of MOUD are reimbursed through SOR, including methadone, buprenorphine (e.g., tablets, film, injectable, and implantable), and naltrexone (e.g., injectable and oral). The Stand Up, Mississippi website includes a list of DMH-certified treatment providers.

Through the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), the state is expanding access to MOUD with the use of telehealth technology. This pilot is funded through SOR and extends services to individuals in rural parts of the state who may not have access to service otherwise.



Provider Services

DMH purchased the Matrix Model, based on input from providers. The Matrix Model of drug rehabilitation (developed in the 1980s) provides a structured and organized model of treatment that keeps patients accountable and more receptive to treatment. While it's most commonly used with people who are addicted to stimulants like cocaine or methamphetamine, the Matrix Model is increasingly applied to different types of SUD treatment, including heroin and prescription opioid painkillers. These programs generally last four months and provide comprehensive therapy and education on the disease of addiction and what can be expected from treatment and recovery processes.

Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Mississippi has used SOR to assist individuals in recovery by expanding recovery housing, supporting collegiate recovery programming efforts, and developing accessible community recovery support services.

SOR Recovery Housing Directory

Recovery houses are accredited through the Mississippi Coalition of Recovery Support Providers (MCRSP) based on standards created by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and approved by DMH. Most MCRSP-accredited houses in Mississippi are considered Level Two houses. These recovery residences are often considered monitored residences or sober living homes.

Level Two includes residences that are typically single-family residences or apartment-style living overseen by a house manager or senior resident. They usually have at least one paid position, such as a resident manager. Additionally, they offer a structured environment with support services predominantly facilitated by peer providers, allowing individuals in recovery to transition from treatment settings to a more home-like environment. Residents in Level Two houses are strongly encouraged to be involved in self-help and/or treatment services. These residences use house meetings to communicate with residents and may or may not conduct drug screening to confirm abstinence.

Family Recovery Program

Through SOR, Recovery Lighthouse has developed a Family Recovery Program that focuses on services, education, and resources for individuals with SUDs and their loved ones. Incorporating family is a foundational component of the design of the Family Recovery Program. Recovery support services include individual, couple, and family counseling; group counseling and education; recovery housing; open support groups; family education workshops; and recovery court services.



Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

In accordance with DMH standards, Mississippi prioritizes pregnant women seeking OUD treatment. DMH also supports young adults through collegiate recovery programming.

Collegiate Recovery Programming

SOR continues to support collegiate recovery programming through Mississippi State University's Department of Health Promotion and Wellness. The Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP) is a package of supportive services



offered at institutions of higher education that provides safe, understanding learning environments for enrolled students in recovery from substance misuse or addiction. CRP facilitates a supportive environment within the campus culture that reinforces the decision to disengage from addictive behaviors. CRP is designed to support educational opportunities alongside recovery support to ensure students do not have to sacrifice one for the other.



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](#).**

Disclaimer: Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. 1H79Tl085588-01 from SAMHSA. The information contained in this brief was provided and verified by the state/jurisdiction. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or the Department of Health and Human Services.