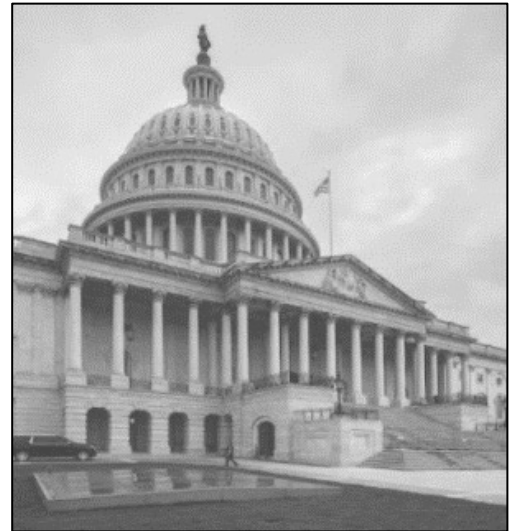


## Missouri SOR Initiatives

### 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): Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Missouri's DBH has received \$119,000,000 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$26,184,078.

SOR is focused on meeting the following goals:

- Promote opioid-related primary prevention among youth and young adults by increasing protective factors and incorporating educational curriculum, wraparound services, and mentoring
- Reduce overdose fatalities through education about overdose prevention and distribution of naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and other harm reduction resources
- Increase access to MOUD using a chronic disease management model
- Provide safe and effective recovery housing, develop a certified peer workforce, promote wellness through recovery community centers, and enhance engagement in long-term recovery supports
- Expand access to harm reduction services for individuals who use drugs, particularly those at highest risk of overdose, including African Americans and people living with HIV/AIDS



## Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Missouri has used SOR to promote primary prevention among youth and young adults by increasing protective factors and incorporating educational curriculum, wraparound services, and mentoring.

### Generation Rx School-Based Prevention Program

PreventEd in St. Louis and Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, Missouri, operate the Generation Rx program for school-aged youth, as well as a range of community members in their regions. Participants learn resiliency and coping skills, as well as the potential dangers of misusing prescription medications, through age-appropriate curricula. Generation Rx program content and accompanying materials are publicly available online through a partnership between the College of Pharmacy at Ohio State University and the Cardinal Health Foundation. During SOR's third year, 8,032 youth participated in this program.

### Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Big Brothers, Big Sisters has been awarded SOR funds to provide mentoring services to youth at high risk for substance misuse in the eastern region of the state. These services specifically target African American youth in the St. Louis region, along with wraparound services for families. Additionally, expanded funding has enabled support for young adults transitioning out of high school, continuing to promote resilience and protective factors against substance misuse.

### Positive Action Curriculum Education Through Boys and Girls Clubs

Boys and Girls Clubs across the state provide the Positive Action Social-Emotional Learning curriculum, an evidence-based program that teaches youth to understand, validate, and control their emotions and create healthier relationships. By focusing on social-emotional learning, youth acquire skills that can help reduce the risk of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. During SOR's third year, 1,451 youth completed the curriculum.

### Partners in Prevention (PIP)

PIP is a consortium of 26 public and private college and university campuses in Missouri, dedicated to addressing substance misuse and creating healthy, safe college campuses. PIP is using SOR to develop informational materials at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that address the risks of opioid misuse and provide overdose prevention and response education. Additionally, PIP provides online education to students and faculty across the state and supports university administration in increasing awareness and response to substance use.

During SOR's third year, 6,084 college-aged youth have been served across Missouri campuses, including two HBCUs.

## Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Missouri reduces overdoses through overdose reversal agent distribution and education.

### Naloxone Distribution

Missouri is committed to distributing both nasal and intramuscular naloxone across the state. Naloxone purchased and distributed with SOR is provided through harm reduction, social service, and recovery-focused programs to reach people who use drugs and their friends and family. Since the start of SOR in 2018, a total of 233,719 naloxone kits have been distributed and 11,970 overdose reversals have been reported statewide.



### Street Outreach and Partnerships With Harm Reduction Organizations

Missouri has partnered with street outreach peer consultants—individuals with lived experience related to substance use disorders (SUDs)—who provide education and naloxone in regions with the highest overdose rates. Outreach workers meet with people who use drugs, community members, faith-based organizations, and neighborhood businesses to distribute naloxone and offer support to address overdoses in their area.

Additionally, five harm reduction agencies have provided funding to establish street outreach initiatives in their communities. These programs are located in the eastern, western, central, and southwestern parts of the state. The agencies provide overdose education and naloxone distribution programming and basic-need resources and recovery/treatment referrals for individuals.

### Naloxone Vending Machines

In 2023, \$1,000,000 worth of nasal naloxone was distributed throughout the state to various agencies through naloxone vending machines. Naloxone vending machines are automated dispensers that provide naloxone to individuals without the need for a prescription. These machines are typically placed in public locations, such as community centers, health clinics, or harm reduction organizations, where they can be easily accessed by people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose.

### Overdose Education and Naloxone Delivery (OEND)

OEND programs are initiatives designed to educate individuals at risk of opioid overdose and their communities about recognizing the signs of overdose and administering naloxone. OEND has provided training on how to administer naloxone safely and effectively, including recognizing the signs of an overdose, performing rescue breathing, administering naloxone via nasal spray or injection, and contacting emergency services. Through 2023, SOR has provided OEND training to 16,000 individuals.

## Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Missouri has also used SOR to support allowable harm reduction strategies.

### AIDS Project of the Ozarks

AIDS Project of the Ozarks, a Ryan White Program located in southwest Missouri, has established a harm reduction outreach program through SOR. This initiative engages individuals in the community who are at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS and also misusing drugs, offering them case management support, healthcare referrals, harm reduction kits, and recovery services.

### Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution

In partnership with the University of Missouri–St. Louis’s Missouri Institute of Mental Health, Missouri SOR staff have expanded training and distribution of fentanyl test strips across the state. These test strips are used for pre-consumption drug checking, as well as post-consumption urine testing, and are predominantly distributed to people who use drugs. In addition to the testing strips, a brief 30-minute training video has been developed to educate agency staff on how to discuss testing strips with clients, the legality of testing substances, and how to use the strips effectively. Peer consultant experts conduct the trainings statewide.

To date, more than 70,000 test strips have been distributed and this number is expected to grow over the next year.

### Wound Care for Non-Clinicians Training Series

Due to increased concern surrounding xylazine in the opioid supply and the resulting wounds, Missouri SOR developed a wound care training for non-clinicians. This training is designed for peers, community health workers, and non-medical staff to help recognize different wound types, discuss wound care with clients, and assist clients in accessing medical services. The training was developed with national experts and local medical providers and is available at: [nomodeaths.org/wound-care-for-nonclinicians](https://nomodeaths.org/wound-care-for-nonclinicians).

### The T St. Louis

The T St. Louis is a harm reduction and prevention center serving as a hub for healing people most vulnerable to addiction, violence, and trauma in St. Louis. It also operates a mobile outreach vehicle called “T-Wheels.” Through 2023, it has trained 18,818 people and distributed 10,734 naloxone kits and 1,591 fentanyl test strips.

## Increasing Access to Treatment

Missouri has used SOR to enhance treatment access for opioid use disorder (OUD) by expanding MOUD and treatment services in federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), providing training and technical assistance to SUD providers, and enhancing a mobile treatment application.

### Missouri Primary Care Association

As part of SOR, the Missouri Primary Care Association hired a SUD program manager who focuses on expanding MOUD and treatment services within FQHCs. They coordinate trainings, assist with collaborative partnerships, and integrate SUD treatment programs in FQHCs. Additionally, they strategize with FQHCs and other primary care programs on expanding SUD-focused services.

### Meeting American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Standards

In partnership with the Missouri Behavioral Health Council, SOR funds are being used to improve SUD treatment programming across the state, aligning it with ASAM standards and reimbursement models. Through this initiative, funded SUD providers can receive ongoing training and technical assistance, quality improvement guidance, and implementation support as they adapt their treatment models to meet best practice standards.



### u-MATr Mobile Application

The u-MATr mobile application was initially developed to support pregnant and postpartum individuals who use opioids as an add-on to routine clinical care. Participants using the app can access skills and strategy sessions, set goals, and receive education regarding opioid use, treatment, and recovery. Additionally, individuals can communicate with a coach to ask questions and receive resource referrals as needed. Since FY18, the u-MATr team has expanded its reach beyond pregnant and postpartum individuals and now provides additional content and treatment services on the app to support all individuals across the state who misuse opioids or stimulants.

### Medication First Approach

Missouri’s SOR team developed and disseminated the “Medication First” treatment approach, modeled after the Housing First approach to chronic homelessness. As part of this initiative, SOR promotes MOUD in a manner consistent with the evidence base. This means providing access as soon as possible, for as long as it

benefits the client, and with minimal barriers and burdensome requirements. Participants enrolled in SOR programming are more likely to initiate MOUD on the same day as intake compared to non-SOR participants.

## Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Missouri used SOR to assist individuals in recovery by expanding peer support services, supporting recovery community centers, enhancing recovery housing, and backing family-based community recovery programs.

### Peer Respite Crisis Stabilization

In FY23, SOR funded a pilot project comprising six peer respite crisis stabilization programs across the state. These services are tailored for individuals who are actively using substances or have recently returned to use, offering them a home-like, safe environment for stabilization and resource connection. Peer respite crisis stabilization programs are staffed 24/7 by certified peer specialists who provide support in recovery goal development, navigation of the treatment system, and connection to additional basic need services. The program's primary objective is to promote recovery for individuals with OUD and StUD, facilitating their connection to longer-term treatment and recovery housing programs.

### Engaging Patients in Care Coordination (EPICC)

The EPICC project is a collaborative effort involving treatment organizations, recovery services, hospital systems, and community partners to link individuals who have experienced an opioid overdose to treatment services. Using a team of peer recovery coaches, outreach is provided 24/7 in four regions of the state as part of a post-overdose response strategy. Peer recovery coaches meet with individuals to offer support, instill hope, and establish recovery goals. They are capable of connecting individuals to treatment and recovery services within 24 to 72 hours. National averages suggest that only about 18% of individuals who use substances engage in treatment services. However, in EPICC, 85% of individuals contacted agree to work with a recovery coach, and 40–50% (depending on region) complete intake with a treatment provider. Other individuals continue to receive support from a coach, enroll in recovery services, or are referred to harm reduction resources.



### Recovery Community Centers (RCCs)

Missouri currently has eight RCCs, four of which are funded through SOR. These RCCs are situated in high-need areas of the state to promote wellness and recovery for individuals with OUD through support, information, outreach, and education. During FY23, they were open for a total of 9,237 hours, provided 5,893 activities to participants, connected with 5,474 new contacts, and offered recovery support services to 15,336 unique individuals.

The RCCs served 4,322 individuals through street outreach, 8,514 individuals through telephone support calls, and 7,268 individuals through RCC-sponsored events. Additionally, RCCs distributed 12,086 lifesaving naloxone kits and 7,596 fentanyl test strips through 2023.

### Recovery Housing

The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers helps oversee the implementation and expansion of National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) accredited recovery housing programs throughout the state. To receive SOR funding, recovery houses must pass the NARR-accreditation process and indicate a willingness



to serve individuals receiving all forms of MOUD. Currently, there are 246 recovery houses with 2,192 beds available that allow individuals to use MOUD.

### Family-Focused Recovery Services

Recovery Lighthouse, Inc. delivers family recovery programming to support individuals affected by OUD or StUD and their families. Services include open support groups, family education workshops, family therapy, treatment, resources, education, and more. During FY23, Recovery Lighthouse held 61 support groups (with 821 individuals and 115 families participating), 51 family education workshops (with 693 individuals and 103 families participating), and 45 family therapy sessions (involving 19 families). Additionally, it provided 261 telephone support calls, conducted 69 walk-in meetings, and connected 107 individuals to treatment.

## Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Missouri has identified subpopulations for targeted initiatives, including people in criminal justice settings and African American communities.

### St. Louis County Jail MOUD Program

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health, in partnership with Justice Services, has established a MOUD program for individuals housed in the jail who use opioids. This program has been informed by national models on jail-based MOUD programming, focusing on initiating individuals on MOUD as quickly as possible, maintaining MOUD for those already prescribed it upon entering the jail, and providing follow-up treatment appointments for individuals upon discharge. Currently, 88% of individuals who receive MOUD are connected to community providers upon release. Additionally, the MOUD program has seen an increase in service capacity, with twice as many individuals served compared to the past year.

### Grassroots Reinvestment for Optimal Wellbeing – St. Louis (GROW STL)

GROW STL is a collaboration with five grassroots organizations to tackle increasing overdose disparities among African Americans in the St. Louis region. Employing a “ground-up” approach to these disparities, the organizations are situated in zip codes with the highest risk for opioid overdose. They offer street outreach, fulfill basic needs, provide recovery services, and offer resource referrals and connections for individuals.



**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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