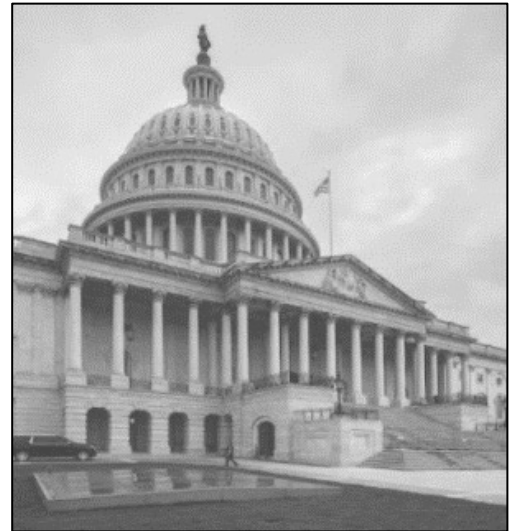


New Mexico SOR Initiatives

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): New Mexico Human Services Department (NMHSD)

NMHSD has received \$43,956,207 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$15,503,826.

The overall SOR goal is to address the opioid used disorder (OUD) and StUD crisis by reducing related morbidity and mortality. Specific goals are to:

1. Increase the number of people receiving OUD and StUD treatment services
2. Increase the number of people receiving OUD and StUD recovery services
3. Increase the number of providers offering MOUD
4. Increase the number of people trained to prevent, treat, provide recovery support, and offer harm reduction services to those with OUD and StUD
5. Decrease the rates of opioid overdose-related deaths and opioid use in New Mexico



Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

New Mexico has used SOR to expand PAX Good Behavior Games and support the development a multilingual media campaign.

PAX Good Behavior Games (GBG)

PAX GBG is an evidence-based program with positive long-term outcomes, including a reduced need for special education services and reductions in substance misuse. PAX GBG has been associated with reducing substance use disorders (SUDs) through its focus on promoting positive behavior and fostering a supportive classroom environment. It has been implemented widely in New Mexico and is expanding under SOR funding.

More than 6,000 teachers have been trained in PAX GBG across 83 public schools and 46 indigenous schools, serving almost 42,000 students.

A Dose of Reality (ADOR)

The ADOR media campaign builds on successful existing media efforts to educate and raise public awareness about overdose prevention and OUD treatment. Under SOR, ADOR expanded the robust campaign with tailored, specialized, and localized community messaging that specifically names current local providers to help people find and access treatment. The campaign uses digital, geofenced, and selective audience targets with paid advertising, social media channels, and a user-friendly website that provides information to the public about overdose prevention, naloxone use, MOUD treatment, and combating stigma toward people with OUD. The website has been revamped to help communities find MOUD providers through a user-friendly treatment locator map. The campaign also implemented a “Game of Chance” element that focuses on fentanyl and polysubstance risks, unwitnessed overdose, myths, and harm reduction. The ADOR site has 118.4 million total impressions, 7.8 million total video views, and 83,000 link clicks, demonstrating site engagement.

Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

New Mexico uses several mechanisms to reduce overdoses including overdose reversal agent distribution and education.

Law Enforcement Training for Professional First Responders

Law Enforcement Training International (LETI) employs active law enforcement officers to provide training to their peers in overdose prevention and Narcan training to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the state. Law Enforcement Training International provides 100–175 overdose prevention education and naloxone training sessions to New Mexico law enforcement agencies per year.

Under SOR, LETI has trained 7,492 law enforcement officers with SOR funds and distributed 7,514 kits through December 31, 2023.

Overdose Prevention Training

SOR provides ongoing technical assistance at the local level to build the capacity to distribute Narcan nasal spray and intramuscular injectable naloxone (0.4 mg dosage) in urban, rural, indigenous, and frontier communities across the state. The Lieving Group is a key contractor in this effort. SOR funds are used to train individuals in overdose prevention, recognition, and response, distribute naloxone kits to individuals and agencies in all 33 counties and Pueblo/Tribal communities, and distribute fentanyl test strips to people using street drugs and the organizations that serve them. Cumulatively, over 33,000 people have been trained, and

nearly 90,000 kits have been distributed across New Mexico. As of December 2023, NM has received reports of 1,719 opioid overdose reversals

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

New Mexico has also used SOR to support allowable harm reduction strategies.

Low-Barrier Buprenorphine Program

The Mountain Center, located in Santa Fe County, provides access to buprenorphine via prescription along with counseling and peer support services. The program is staffed by a nurse practitioner who also provides basic medical care and warm referrals for people who may need more intensive medical services. The low-barrier MOUD program has an average of 43 encounters monthly related to buprenorphine treatment and 40 encounters monthly for related support and recovery services, including therapy and case navigation sessions.

Harm Reduction Education via the Lieving Group

The statewide overdose prevention education coordinator, Bernie Lieving, trains firefighters and federal, state, and local law enforcement officers on overdose response, harm reduction, opioids and their impact in New Mexico, and New Mexico statutes related to overdose prevention. He also provides fentanyl test strips for harm reduction purposes.

New Mexico Collaborative Hubs Program

All New Mexico collaborative hub partner agencies provide harm reduction services, including fentanyl test strips, naloxone training and distribution, and HIV and Hepatitis C testing services directly or through referral. Each year, more than 500 clients receive OUD or StUD treatment services, as well as harm reduction.

Increasing Access to Treatment

New Mexico has used SOR to enhance treatment access for OUD by expanding MOUD services across the state.

New Mexico Collaborative Hubs Model

An adaptation of the evidence-based hub-and-spoke model, the New Mexico Collaborative Hubs Model facilitates a strong, coordinated, and sustainable approach to expanding OUD-related services. It ensures that providers receive consistent information and develop standardized language and processes as they enhance their skills in treating OUD. The New Mexico Collaborative Hubs Model is tailored to fit the rural and frontier landscape and resources of New Mexico. A foundational component of the model is the MOUD ECHO program.

MOUD ECHO Program

The MOUD ECHO program provides weekly didactics and case consultations to assist providers in initiating and retaining patients in OUD treatment. It focuses on enhancing the prescribing of buprenorphine, therapy and counseling, and clinic operations (such as screening, monitoring, billing, and related tasks) to facilitate successful OUD treatment programs. Since 2018, more than 1,000



providers and clinic staff have been trained and supported in the use of buprenorphine through the program.

New Mexico Bridge Program

This program uses the successful “bridge” model to train and support hospitals to start buprenorphine treatment for people with OUD, provide naloxone, and ensure patients are connected to outpatient treatment programs in the community. Since 2020, New Mexico Bridge has trained and supported 11 hospitals, which have in turn provided this treatment to 620 patients as of November 2023.

Supporting Long-Term Recovery

New Mexico has used SOR to assist individuals in recovery by expanding peer support services and community-based recovery services.

Choice Recovery Path (CRP) Program

CRP provides peer-led group services using its unique curriculum and software implementation at Courageous Transformations and Santa Fe Recovery Center programs. CRP has been shown to increase engagement with clients who misuse substances in participating programs through a highly client-centered, authentic approach that clients request. The CRP curriculum is based on evidence-based modalities presented in easy-to-understand language, which enhances engagement and self-efficacy.

The CRP app has been implemented as an additional resource to help these organizations connect with their client base and demonstrate how to increase their accountability and take control of their recovery goals. Based on a recent evaluation, the impact includes increases in positive outlook on recovery, motivation to work on recovery, and increased length of stay in services.

Peer Placement in Emergency Departments via New Mexico Bridge Program

With SOR funding, core MOUD hubs and emergency departments are provided with a full-time peer. The peer’s role is to maintain monthly engagement with clients and refer clients to community services.

Treatment Hub Recovery Services

All of New Mexico’s treatment programs for OUD and StUD, as well as co-occurring disorders, directly provide or refer individuals to community-based recovery services. As of December 2023, more than 11,000 people have received these recovery support services.

Community Health Worker/Peer ECHO Program

This innovative ECHO program focuses on training and supporting community health workers and peers to deliver treatment and recovery services for individuals with OUD or StUD. It is conducted under the auspices of the ECHO Institute and adheres to the ECHO model, which includes didactic sessions and case-based learning. Average yearly attendance at the CHW/Peer ECHO is nearly 350.



Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

New Mexico has identified several subpopulations for targeted initiatives: Tribal/Urban Indian, Hispanic/Latinx, and people in criminal justice settings.

Judicial ECHO Program

This program, funded by SOR, began in February 2024, following a successful pilot in 2022. The ECHO program engages New Mexico judges, justices, and staff in drug court programs to educate them on OUD, evidence-based treatments involving medications and therapy, and available community resources, supports, and recovery services. Following the ECHO model, each session includes educational didactics and de-identified case presentations to assist judges and court programs in finding appropriate services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

Criminal Justice Settings MOUD Program

This program supports detention facilities in initiating facility-based treatment programs for incarcerated individuals with OUD and any co-occurring disorders. The program encompasses medications, therapy, and connections to community-based treatment services. It includes training and support for community-based programs through the MOUD ECHO program and the collaborative hubs model resources and support.

Recovery Capital Program (RCBP)

RCBP at Santa Fe Recovery Center (SFRC), funded by SOR, is a groundbreaking initiative to enhance support and initiate recovery for individuals with SUD, including OUD and StUD. This program employs a measurement-based engagement tool (i.e., RCEPT) to assess recovery capital strengths and create personalized recovery plans, leveraging the diverse strengths of the population through motivational interviewing and group processes. More than 20 certified peer support workers and staff have been trained, incorporating the tool into SFRC's electronic health records to ensure it is part of every client's treatment plan. Since its inception in August 2023, more than 300 clients have benefited from RCBP, with projections indicating that more than 800 clients will receive the RCEPT and participate in RCBP groups annually. The majority of SFRC's clients are Hispanic, with a significant minority being American Indian or Alaska Native, most of whom rely on Medicaid or state funds due to a lack of insurance.

ADOR Media Campaign: Focus on Native American and Hispanic/Spanish Language Communities

NMHSD developed an opioid awareness media campaign through the ADOR website and media channels to inform Native Americans and Hispanic communities. The campaign featured the work of renowned cartoonist Ricardo Caté of Santo Domingo/Kewa Pueblo. Additionally, the department has developed an award-winning Spanish telenovela series about opioid risks, prevention, and OUD treatment. The Spanish-language multimedia campaign provides information on primary prevention of overdoses and responding to an overdose with Narcan.

Indigenous PAX GBG

NMHSD implements an adaptation of PAX GBG called Indigenous PAX to provide primary prevention in Tribal schools. This adaptation is oriented much more intentionally toward engagement beyond the school district staff and students, reaching out to the community as a whole.



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. 1H79T1o85588-01 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.