

Oregon 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): Oregon Health Authority Behavioral Health Division

From FY18 through FY23, the Oregon Health Authority Behavioral Health Division received \$79 million in SOR funds. For FY23–FY24, it received \$16 million.

The Oregon State Opioid Response (SOR 3) grant focuses on regions and populations with high rates of opioid use disorder (OUD) or StUD, high overdose rates, and low substance use disorder (SUD) treatment participation. SOR activities aim to increase access to treatment and recovery services, strengthen overdose prevention and harm reduction resources, employ a comprehensive prevention services plan, and expand the state's SUD workforce. Additionally, Oregon's SOR 3 activities address disparities in treatment access and overdose among Tribal communities and communities of color. The SOR 3 grant supports prevention and recovery services for LGBTQIA2S+ and young adult populations. Oregon's goals and objectives for SOR are outlined below.



Prevention – Expand the statewide structure for prevention messaging, school-based prevention programs, and outreach to underserved and diverse populations.



- Implement school-based prevention activities addressing the consequences of opioid and stimulant misuse
- Develop a sustainable youth engagement infrastructure for youth-led prevention and school-based solutions
- Enhance culturally specific organizations and Tribal entities to provide outreach and education in their communities
- Increase local capacity for multi-partner coordination, community outreach, prevention messaging, and harm reduction
- Train the workforce and provide self-management resources for culturally appropriate strategies (e.g., pain management, opioid prescribing, SUD treatment across the continuum)

Harm Reduction – Expand and strengthen the statewide overdose prevention infrastructure and increase access to harm reduction services

- Expand naloxone distribution, education, and training and technical assistance (T/TA)
- Increase harm reduction services and supports
- Improve infectious disease screening, testing, and referral

Treatment – Expand the statewide SUD treatment system to increase treatment access for individuals with OUD and StUD

- Increase access to MOUD with a focus on underserved populations and regions
- Increase access to StUD treatment using contingency management
- Improve care transitions for individuals re-entering the community from treatment and criminal justice settings

Recovery – Expand the statewide recovery support services framework for individuals with OUD and StUD

- Increase access to culturally specific recovery support services among Indigenous, Latino/a/x, and Black individuals, young people, and people who identify as LGBTQIA2S+
- Continue to develop Oregon’s recovery high school
- Expand the Recovery Gym model
- Expand peer-based recovery wellness programs

Workforce – Expand and enhance the statewide substance use workforce

- Provide enhanced training and certification support to prospective certified recovery mentors (CRMs) and certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADCs)
- Continue Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) to target providers serving rural and frontier communities
- Support workforce initiatives using SAMHSA-funded T/TA

Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Oregon’s SOR 3 prevention grantees are involved in a range of activities to implement and expand local, county, school-based, and healthcare-related prevention efforts. Building on current infrastructure and resources, prevention grantees were funded to do the activities described below in 2023.



State and Local Systems

Oregon is implementing state and local data systems to support decision-making related to overdose prevention programs and services. The state is also supporting local public health authorities to develop overdose emergency response protocols, increase naloxone accessibility, and work with underserved populations, schools, and healthcare systems to prevent overdose.

Oregon Pain Management Commission Education Initiatives

Oregon used SOR to support Oregon Pain Management Commission pain education initiatives, including providing education, maintaining the Oregon Pain Guidance website, creating patient and clinician videos and handouts, developing guidance on addressing inequities in pain care, and translating educational materials into Spanish.

Dental ECHO

Oregon offers Dental ECHO programming to promote dental pain management that balances the risks and benefits of opioid medications for safer care.

Youth Initiatives

Oregon used SOR to create a model substance use and misuse policy for schools, develop middle school substance use and misuse lessons, and gather youth input for health education standards. They integrate sustainable youth engagement through an affiliated network of engaged youth to assess the needs of Oregon youth and develop youth-led and school-based prevention solutions.

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Oregon's SOR 3 harm reduction grantees are increasing knowledge, skills, and resources and embedding harm reduction philosophies in diverse communities, healthcare settings, and other localized settings. Harm reduction–related programs are highlighted below.

Save Lives Oregon (SLO)/Salvando Vidas Oregon (SVO)

[SLO/SVO](#) is a statewide harm reduction effort in Oregon to reduce overdose, save lives, and support safer communities. The initiative provides guidance and supplies to organizations and Tribal communities, partnering to support new or existing harm reduction efforts. The initiative provides needed support and training to partner organizations looking to learn about, integrate, or expand harm reduction strategies. It enhances equitable access to life-saving supplies for partner organizations by connecting those who qualify to the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse, and other supply sources for items that prevent overdose, injury, or infection due to substance use.

391,000 naloxone doses have been distributed since the start of the program in 2020, with over 7,500 overdose reversals reported.

Peer Recovery Initiated in Medical Establishments + Infectious Disease Testing and Linkage to Treatment (PRIME+)

PRIME+ is a comprehensive, syndemic model that uses peer mentors to reach people in need of treatment for overdose, infection, or other substance use–related health issues. Peers engage people using a harm reduction approach and provide overdose prevention and safer use tools and education; linkage to SUD treatment, testing and treatment for hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV, and primary care; and recovery supports. With SOR 3 funds, Oregon's PRIME+ program has added four new organizations, expanded referral pathways, conducted outreach, launched and provided training on an improved database, translated a survey into

Spanish, coordinated peer learning collaborative sessions, recruited and hired peers, and used a collaborative project management and communication site.

Peer Programs

Oregon has expanded its Peer-Assisted Telemedicine for HCV and Syphilis (PATHS) Model, which provides access to low-barrier HCV care in rural counties. Up to ten sites participate in the program. Oregon has also implemented a program called Peers Expanding Engagement in Stimulant Harm Reduction with Contingency Management (PEER-CM). PEER-CM uses peers to provide contingency management to incentivize harm reduction goals and engagement in SUD treatment for people who use stimulants.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Oregon's SOR 3 treatment grantees are implementing innovative treatment models, expanding the reach of effective services and programs, and working to increase access and availability of high-quality treatment programs for OUD and StUD. Grantee activities include efforts in the below areas.

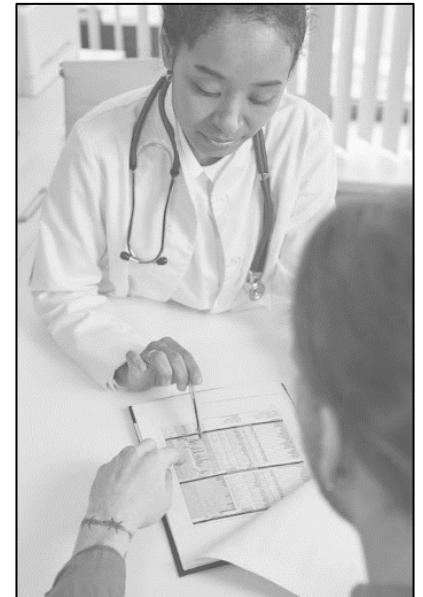
Evidence-Based Treatment Services

Oregon used SOR to provide low-barrier, evidence-based treatment for people with OUD. Grantees are expanding access to MOUD treatment, particularly for communities of color including Latino, Black, and Indigenous populations. Additionally, the state has developed and disseminated evidence-based practice models, including digital solutions to improve mental health and wellness, treat SUDs, and provide life skills.

Contingency Management

Oregon used SOR to provide T/TA to treatment providers on contingency management, which is an evidence-based treatment program for StUD. The state is working with the University of Washington Center for Advancing Addiction Health Services to provide customized contingency management implementation support for up to 14 treatment organizations. This includes:

- **Initial online training** with tailored content for organizational leaders, clinical supervisors, direct-care staff, and administrative support personnel
- **Collaborative design of contingency management programming** with subject matter experts to ensure its compatibility with local clinical needs and resources
- **Skills-based virtual coaching** of clinical staff to assure program fidelity and implementation readiness
- **Program evaluation training** to internally measure local clinical effectiveness
- **Ongoing consultation** during active implementation efforts with a subsequent opportunity to join a Contingency Management Community of Practice



Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Oregon's SOR 3 recovery support grantees are implementing and expanding their services, programming, and outreach efforts. Offering culturally specific services and innovative programs, recovery support grantees are engaged in activities below to grow their organizations, programs, and services.

Culturally Specific Services

Oregon used SOR to maintain and sustain culturally specific services for communities of color; Indigenous, Latino, and LGBTQIA communities; and youth through programs that began during the previous SOR grant cycle. The state has awarded funding for providers to deliver Afro-centric culturally specific services from a trauma-informed lens. Grantee activities include recruiting, hiring, and training staff and building organizational business practice. A LGBTQIA+-specific recovery mentoring program is being offered in one community.



Recovery Support Services

Oregon used SOR to support its first recovery high school for students in recovery. The school offers recovery support services for adolescents and young adults aged 14–21. The state has also implemented an afterschool recovery program for high school-aged youth and funds a Recovery Gym that offers recovery support services and recovery CrossFit activities.



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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