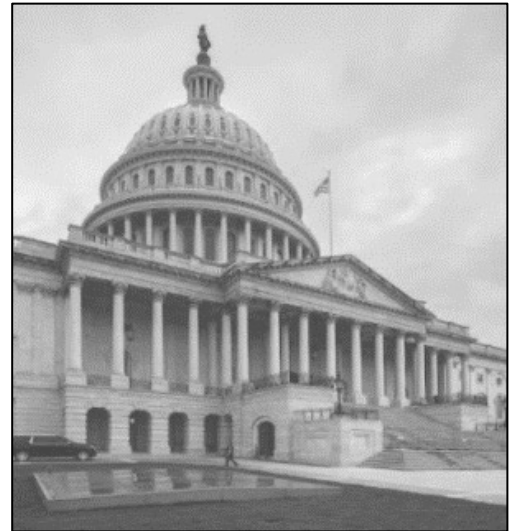


Texas SOR Initiatives

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): Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)

HHSC has received \$437,016,609 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$54,627,474.

To address the opioid epidemic, HHSC started Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) in May 2017. TTOR is a public health initiative with a mission to save lives and provide life-long support to Texans with opioid use disorder (OUD) and StUD by expanding access to services. This program serves the entire state with a particular focus on three groups at increased risk for OUD, harmful stimulant use, and resulting consequences: 1. People living in rural/remote areas; 2. People using multiple substances; and 3. People with historically low access to services. Four values guide TTOR implementation across the continuum of care: collaborative, accessible, evidence-informed, and wholistic services. These core values provide a framework for services that meet communities where they are and ensure positive outcomes for all Texans.



Four broad strategies are employed to address OUD in Texas: prevention, integrated services, treatment, and recovery. Each strategy contains projects supporting evidence-based services to reduce opioid misuse.

- Prevention projects connect communities to resources throughout Texas, raising awareness about prescription opioid misuse, distributing lifesaving naloxone, and stopping substance use disorder (SUD) before it starts
- Integrated projects work with organizations that provide rapid, short-term services to people with OUD and then arrange longer-term care through other, more specialized providers
- Treatment projects expand access to the organizations that provide MOUD, ensuring people can choose from a variety of treatment options
- Recovery projects provide peer support, employment, housing, and other services important for sustaining long-term recovery from OUD

Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Texas has used SOR to support awareness campaigns, provide preventative trainings, distribute naloxone, and provide evidence-based strategies for overdose reversal.

Safe Drug Disposal and Community Awareness Program (SDD/CA)

The SDD/CA program's purpose is to improve Texans' lives of by preventing non-medical use of prescription medications through increased access to safe disposal methods, assessment of healthcare provider practices relating to disposal methods, and prevention education to high-risk individuals in Texas. Statewide distribution sites include prevention coalitions, fire departments, and other community stakeholders.

PAX Good Behavior Game

This program provides PAX Good Behavior Game and PAX tools training to equip adults with strategies to help build children's self-regulation skills. This universal preventive approach not only reduces opioid misuse by reducing early childhood predictors of OUD, but also improves classroom behavior and academics.

Opioid Misuse Public Awareness Campaign

This campaign covers various cities, specifically targeting communities highly affected by OUD. It increases awareness of opioid misuse dangers and risk mitigation strategies, and helps people find OUD treatment.

Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone

Naloxone Texas is a statewide initiative that aims to end the state's overdose epidemic through medication distribution, public awareness, and workforce empowerment. Its primary initiatives include:

- **Free Naloxone Distribution:** In collaboration with state funders, lifesaving naloxone is shipped free throughout Texas, with emphasis on areas designated as high-risk for opioid overdose based on county-level data
- **Training in Evidence-Based Strategies:** Virtual, on-demand training is provided to educate the workforce and general public on the opioid crisis and evidence-based strategies for overdose reversal

Opioid Surveillance Dashboard

Opioid Surveillance Dashboard is a collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to expand and enhance the DSHS Texas Health Data interactive website and query system on the prevalence and impact of opioids and other substances at the local level, as well as availability of services to improve the effectiveness of prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts.

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

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

Overdose Prevention Drop-In Centers

Overdose prevention drop-in centers provide people at high risk for overdose with access to prevention education, overdose reversal medication, MOUD, and recovery support. TTOR supports walk-in centers as well as pre-arrest diversion facilities.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Texas has used SOR to improve access to OUD treatment by expanding MOUD services in both office and clinical settings and establishing a 24/7 treatment referral helpline.

Treatment in Office

This project increases MOUD access in a variety of settings outside traditional clinics by increasing the number of physicians providing both buprenorphine and extended-release naltrexone, expanding opportunities for physicians to obtain the DEA-required training on treating and managing patients with OUD and other SUD, creating a professional peer mentoring network, and expanding the network of state-funded treatment providers.

Treatment in Clinic

This project increases access to all three FDA-approved medications for OUD treatment (methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone) by expanding capacity at new and existing clinics (53 statewide). This will enable clinics to treat both primary OUD along with co-morbid conditions, such as hepatitis C, psychiatric conditions, and wound care, at a single clinic site.

HEROES Helpline

This initiative offers a 24/7 treatment referral line to first responders at risk for OUD. The initiative refers callers to treatment and recovery resources and provides in-person and online trainings to raise awareness among first responders of substance use, stress, and other mental health risks.

Support Hospital OUD Treatment (SHOUT) Texas

This project expands inpatient initiation of buprenorphine across hospital service lines, adds peer recovery support services, and provides stigma-reduction training to clinical staff in hospital emergency departments and other acute care units.

Priority Admission Counselors (PACs)

PACs operate within outreach, screening, assessment, and referral (OSAR) providers and focus on priority populations with OUD. PACs provide people with screening services, engage them in informed consent, ensure timely access to treatment, and provide overdose prevention education, including access to naloxone.



Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Texas has used SOR to assist individuals in recovery by expanding peer support services, developing peer recovery communities, and providing recovery housing.

Peer Services

TTOR implements a network of peer-based recovery support services organizations with a focus on increasing the availability of low-barrier, evidence-based, sustainable recovery support for people with OUD, StUD, or both. The program also provides “in-reach” support to facilitate transition for people who are incarcerated from the county jails, prisons, and rehabilitative settings into clinically appropriate and community-based care.

Medication-Assisted Recovery Services (MARS)

This project provides training to develop peer recovery communities among patients engaged with opioid treatment programs in Texas. Trainings are created by and for people using MOUD. Originating at Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York, this training has been adapted for use in Texas with funding from Texas HHSC through the University of Texas at Austin School of Pharmacy. The state works with patients and MOUD program staff in Texas to develop their own unique recovery community culture, using patient-lead mutual-aid self-help, leadership development, and education about MOUD and recovery. It provides all materials, stipends for patients’ time, and ongoing support after the training.

Housing for Opioid MOUD Expanded Services (Project HOMES) and Evaluation

TTOR provides Level II and Level III National Alliance for Recovery Residences/Texas Recovery Oriented Housing Network certified recovery housing and recovery support for people using MOUD and people with a history of StUD across the state.

Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Texas has identified subpopulations for targeted initiatives, including parenting women and people in criminal justice settings.

Integrated Family Planning Opioid Response (IFPOR)

IFPOR adds overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery support to family planning clinics to reach low-income and pregnant/postpartum women and their families.

Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-Entry Support

This partnership between HHSC and community corrections improves MOUD and recovery services for people preparing for release from community corrections facilities. Clients receive intensive reach-in services for OUD and aftercare following release to ensure a seamless journey to recovery.





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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