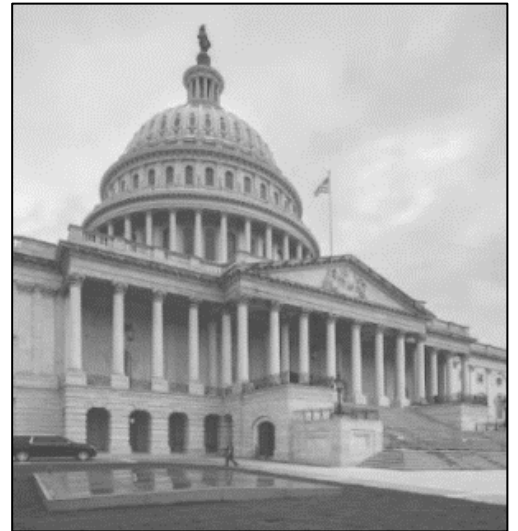


Vermont SOR Initiatives

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): Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (VDH-DSU)



From FY18 through FY22, VDH-DSU received approximately \$18 million in SOR funding. In FY23–FY24 (SOR III, Y1 and Y2), it received \$8 million.

Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

While most prevention efforts in Vermont are supported by other funding sources, SOR supports opioid misuse prevention.

Lockboxes

VDH-DSU purchases and distributes lockboxes to mitigate diversion risks for prescribed MOUD medications and to ensure appropriate medication use and dose by patients. The lockboxes are available to all eight opioid treatment program (OTP) hubs and two residential facilities that transport patients daily.

Increasing Access to Treatment

VDH-DSU has used SOR to increase access to treatment services.

VT Helplink

VT Helplink provides Vermonters a single point of contact for seeking information and support for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, including the hub-and-spoke system for MOUD; gender SUD and opioid use disorder (OUD) information; and resources, including scheduling appointments for assessments.

VT Helplink ensures more timely access to treatment and recovery services and reduces the potential for misuse of opioids through linkages to and publicizing of prevention activities statewide.

ASAM 3.1 Residential Program Development

This initiative supports the development and implementation of evidence-based residential programming for individuals with OUD and StUD to achieve and maintain recovery. The program has provided an additional eight treatment slots to serve individuals in need of low-intensity residential care, and 16 additional slots are slated to open within the next year. Treatment includes structured support, access to MOUD and related clinical services, and recovery support services.



Bennington Hub Development

Supports the development and implementation of an evidence-based OTP to support individuals with OUD in achieving and maintaining recovery. The program will expand OTP services to Bennington County and serve individuals currently receiving treatment in an office-based opioid treatment program needing a higher level of services, individuals receiving methadone treatment out of state, and individuals new or returning to treatment. Treatment will include dispensing and administration of MOUD, toxicology testing, and related clinical services, such as counseling, assessment, and treatment planning.

Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Vermont has identified the great value that certified recovery coaching brings to connecting people with needed information and resources to support their pathway to harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. SOR supports these ongoing efforts.

Recovery Coach Academy and Peer Recovery Coach Training

VDH-DSU provides funding for individuals to complete the 40-hour educational component of the Vermont Recovery Coach Academy's certification requirement and other trainings and activities to support development of peer recovery coaches.

Recovery Coaching in the Emergency Department (RCED)

The RCED program was established in 2018, with the goal of serving individuals presenting with SUD in the emergency department. This program was created by establishing partnerships between VDH, Vermont's

recovery centers, and local hospitals. Vermont's 12 recovery centers provide recovery support services and recovery coaching to 14 Vermont emergency departments.

Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Vermont used SOR to support parenting individuals, adolescents and their families, and Vermont's New American population.

Parents in Recovery Coaching

This program provides recovery coaches who specialize in serving parents seeking SUD treatment and recovery services. This program (formerly MOMs in Recovery) has expanded to serve all parenting individuals in four recovery centers.

Family Engagement Services

This program embeds staff within the existing network of adolescent and young adult specialty providers to offer adolescents, transition-aged youth, and families/caregivers outreach, engagement, and SUD education services. These activities help identify risky behaviors in youth and young adults, which can lead to the development of an OUD, and provide education and parenting support to prevent OUD.



Cultural Brokers

This program provides integrated prevention, education, and early intervention services to Vermont's New Americans with or at risk for SUD. Eight cultural brokers support some of the largest immigrant and refugee communities in Vermont (e.g., Somali, Somali Bantu, Congolese, Bhutanese Nepali) and are effective liaisons with schools, clinics, community agencies, medical providers, mental health agencies, juvenile justice organizations, and law enforcement officers. Additionally, cultural brokers build trusting relationships with Vermont's New Americans to identify and address substance misuse and provide educational opportunities and information on available SUD community resources.



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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