

## Wyoming 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): Wyoming Department of Health Behavioral Health Division

From FY18 through FY23, the Wyoming Department of Health Behavioral Health Division received \$22.1 million in SOR funds. For FY23–FY24, it received \$4 million.

Wyoming SOR proactively addresses the opioid crisis, emphasizing three key objectives:

1. Enhance access to MOUD services across Wyoming, with a specific emphasis on extending reach to rural and frontier locations
2. Expand treatment opportunities through the integration of addiction care, forging partnerships with the criminal justice system, other community stakeholders, and general health systems
3. Alleviate opioid overdose-related fatalities by providing comprehensive treatment and recovery activities tailored to individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD)



## Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Wyoming has used SOR to implement substance use prevention programs, including a statewide media campaign and medical provider education.

### Media Campaign

Wyoming used SOR for the widespread dissemination of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign. This collaborative effort additionally involved creating tailored media content in both Spanish and English to raise awareness about fentanyl. These assets complement the broader CDC initiative, enhancing the campaign's overall impact by providing crucial information to the public.

### Alternative to Opioids (ALTO)

Wyoming has used SOR to implement the ALTO project in Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. This initiative imparts essential knowledge to paramedics, first responders, and emergency and addiction medicine physicians, equipping them with alternative pain management tools beyond opioids and other drugs. The program places significant emphasis on compassionate communication with patients, fostering pathways to health and mitigating pain.

## Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Wyoming has used SOR to support its overdose reversal medication distribution and education initiatives.

### Naloxone Distribution

Wyoming established a partnership with an online pharmacy to streamline the direct distribution of naloxone kits. Each kit comprises two doses of naloxone. This partnership allows for comprehensive coverage across Wyoming. This approach also eliminates the need for collaboration with individual pharmacies, particularly in areas where local pharmacies are absent or not participating in naloxone distribution.

### GetNaloxoneNow.org

Wyoming's partnership with [GetNaloxoneNow.org](https://www.getnaloxone.org) trains lay individuals and first responders in the crucial aspects of opioid overdose recognition and response. By leveraging this resource, the state aims to create a widespread network of informed individuals and responders who can play a pivotal role in saving lives amidst the opioid epidemic.

## Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Wyoming has expanded access to allowable harm reduction services, such as fentanyl test strip distribution, through SOR-funded initiatives.

### Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution

Wyoming has used SOR to support fentanyl test strip distribution. The state's approach involves not only providing these tools to local organizations but also exploring innovative methods to facilitate the ordering and distribution of test strip kits directly to individuals. Wyoming is in the planning and development phase for this initiative.

## Increasing Access to Treatment

Wyoming has used SOR to increase access to treatment services, including MOUD.

### Court Supervised Treatment (CST) Program

MOUD use within criminal justice settings, including prisons under the Wyoming Department of Corrections and a CST Program, marks a departure from state conventional practices. Historically, CST Program policies have not endorsed medications. However, the Wyoming CST Program is pioneering an innovative approach by affording participants the option to incorporate MOUD into their treatment plans, enabling them to fulfill all requisite CST requirements while benefiting from MOUD interventions. This innovative initiative aligns with a broader paradigm shift toward more comprehensive and flexible strategies in addressing substance use disorders (SUDs) within the criminal justice framework.

### MOUD Services

Wyoming partners with nine MOUD providers strategically located across regions, ensuring coverage for all 23 counties in Wyoming. This marked a substantial expansion in services provision for OUD from SOR II to SOR III. The increased regional availability resulted in extended clinical hours, improved MOUD accessibility, and supplementary support services, including crucial housing assistance that fosters clients' ongoing recovery.



## Supporting Long-Term Recovery

To help individuals reach and maintain long-term recovery, Wyoming has implemented support services.

### Telephone Recovery Support (TRS)

Recover Wyoming launched the TRS program, which is an innovative peer-to-peer support service designed to reach individuals navigating recovery or seeking recovery from SUD and/or mental health conditions. Dedicated staff and trained peer support volunteers engage in weekly calls to check on TRS participants. During these calls, individuals receive personalized support, encouragement, valuable information, and access to resources to assist them in initiating or maintaining their recovery journey. This statewide initiative is modeled after successful TRS programs across the nation and follows the proven practices of other recovery community organizations in the United States.



## Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Wyoming has implemented programs targeted at serving populations of focus, including Tribal communities.

### Doya Natsu Healing Center

Doya Natsu Healing Center, under the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, is actively engaged in providing culturally responsive education and training on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Its efforts include promoting use of the Native American version of the Addiction-Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System, a smartphone recovery application designed to provide ongoing care for individuals dealing with alcohol and substance use disorders.

### White Buffalo Recovery

White Buffalo Recovery, under the Northern Arapaho Tribe, offers vital services, such as sober community housing, care coordination, and peer support. This initiative has notably increased the likelihood of sobriety and abstinence, reduced the potential for relapse, and enhanced home and community integration. Cultural competency is a cornerstone of the program, incorporating activities that resonate with indigenous lineage individuals on their 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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