



D.C. Update: Proposed FY 2020 funding for SAMHSA, second installment of SOR funds, upcoming webinars and more

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## Around the Agencies

### **SAMHSA releases guidance to States on MAT in criminal justice settings**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released "[Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) in the Criminal Justice System: Brief Guidance to the States](#)." The document provides guidance to State governments on increasing the availability of MAT in criminal justice (CJ) settings. The brief offers an overview of the challenges to incorporating MAT, key considerations for establishing MAT in CJ settings, and existing standards/guidelines. SAMHSA also published a blog post on the topic, "[Breaking The Cycle: Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) In The Criminal Justice System](#)," which highlights the new guidance document.

### **SAMHSA seeking applications for Evaluation of Technology Transfer Center Program**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for the [National Evaluation of the Technology Transfer Center Program grant](#). In 2018, SAMHSA reconfigured its approach to training and technical

### **DOJ seeking applications for Opioid Affected Youth Initiative**

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is seeking applications for the [Opioid Affected Youth Initiative](#) grant program. This Initiative supports States, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for children, youth, and their families who have been impacted by the opioid crisis and addiction. Specifically, the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative will fund sites to develop a data-driven coordinated response to identify and address challenges resulting from the opioid crisis that are impacting youth and community safety. Applications are due May 7, 2019.

### **HRSA accepting applications for Opioid Workforce Expansion Program**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for the [Opioid Workforce Expansion Program \(OWEP\)](#) for Professionals and for Paraprofessionals. OWEP for Professionals' purpose is to build upon existing

assistance by establishing a national network of regional technology transfer centers for substance use prevention and mental health services, in addition to the existing centers for addiction technology transfer (ATTCs). As described by SAMHSA, the premise of this new approach was the broad dissemination of evidence-based practices to best equip the healthcare workforce with the skills needed to address substance use prevention and the treatment of mental and substance use disorders, whether or not this workforce was a beneficiary of SAMHSA grant funding. The purpose of the National Evaluation is to gauge the extent to which this effort has been effective.

HRSA investments to enhance community-based experiential training focused on opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders for students preparing to become addiction treatment professionals. The OW EP for Paraprofessionals program funds this same training for peer support specialists and other types of substance use-related paraprofessionals. FY 2019 funding for OW EP for Professionals is \$39.3 million for approximately 29 awards and OW EP for Paraprofessionals is \$29.8 million to fund about 33 awards. Applications for both programs are due May 7, 2019.

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## News from NASADAD

### Recent NASADAD-FAVOR call on SSA-RCO Collaboration

On March 1, 2019, the [National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors \(NASADAD\)](#) and [Faces & Voices of Recovery \(FAVOR\)](#) co-hosted a call on State alcohol and drug agency coordination and collaboration with Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs).

The call featured examples of SSA-RCO collaboration through presentations by the following speakers:

- Cassandra Price (NASADAD President; Director, Office of Addictive Diseases, GA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities)
- Neil Campbell (Executive Director, Georgia Council on Substance Abuse)
- Sara Goldsby (Director, South Carolina Dept. of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services [DAODAS])
- Rich Jones (CEO/COO, FAVOR Greenville)

After introductions from Patty McCarthy Metcalf, Executive Director of FAVOR, and Rob Morrison, Executive Director of NASADAD, Sara Goldsby started her presentation with a description of her State's workforce vision: "South Carolina will have a stable, competent, multidisciplinary workforce that is qualified and adequate in number to ensure effective prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services for substance use disorders." Director Goldsby spoke about the increased provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) over the past 2 years, and coinciding focus on recovery support services. Recovery support services are being funded in large part through the State Targeted Response (STR), State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. Some recovery-specific initiatives in SC include: Certified Peer Support Specialist Training; Emergency Department Stabilization; Peer Intervention with Law Enforcement; Engagement in Treatment and Transition Supports; Peer Support for Inmates (Jails and Prisons) & Drug Courts; and Engaging Families.

After Director Goldsby's presentation, Rich Jones spoke about the role and history of FAVOR SC. FAVOR SC formed with a mission of promoting long-term recovery from substance use disorders through education, advocacy and recovery support services, resulting in healthier individuals, families, and communities. Since its inception in 2006, FAVOR SC has grown tremendously, and Mr. Jones noted that such growth wouldn't be possible without the support of DAODAS. DAODAS's strategic funding of individual chapters and special projects across the State has been essential to FAVOR SC's success. Mr. Jones and Director Goldsby noted the importance of the relationship between their two entities in ensuring and enhancing recovery support for South Carolinians.

Director Price and Ms. Campbell then presented on their collaborative work to increase recovery support services in Georgia. They reviewed a timeline of recovery-focused initiatives in the State, starting in 2001 when Georgia became the first State in the country to provide Medicaid reimbursement for certified peer specialists. The presenters described their work as being similar to the recovery process itself, highlighting the following factors: building relationships by showing up for each other, honest communication, accountability, understanding that we're in this together, building common goals, and being a good ally.

Slides from the guest presenters can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Patty McCarthy Metcalf of FAVOR ([pmccarthy@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:pmccarthy@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)) or Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman of NASADAD ([swickramatilake@#](mailto:swickramatilake@#)).

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## Administration Actions

### Proposed FY 2020 funding for SAMHSA and other federal agencies

On March 11th, the Administration released the [first part of its proposed budget](#) for FY 2020. This week, agencies across the federal government started to release their respective congressional justifications, which outline proposed dollar amounts for specific line items and explain the rationale behind those numbers. The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's \(SAMHSA\) congressional justification](#) proposes the following:

- \$1.858 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant (level compared to FY 2019)
- \$1.5 billion for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant (level)
- \$430 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), a \$30 million cut
  - Elimination of the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program (\$30 million cut)
  - Elimination of the Minority Fellowship program (\$4.8 million cut)
  - New \$4 million grant program to develop curricula for DATA waivers (+\$4 million)
  - Level funding for all other programs (MAT-PDOA, Pregnant & Postpartum Women, Drug Courts, etc.)
- \$144 million for Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) within the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a \$61 million cut
  - \$58 million for Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) (\$61 million cut)
  - Elimination of the Minority Fellowship program (\$321,000 cut)
- Moving the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to CSAP
  - Level funding of \$100 million for DFC
  - This \$100 million program is *not* included in the total \$144 million for PRNS within CSAP
- \$701 million for Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant (level)

Highlights of proposed funding for other federal programs include:

- Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP):
  - The proposed total for ONDCP in FY 2020 includes \$16,400,000 for operations, and \$12,101,000 for other federal drug control programs.
  - In addition to ONDCP's DFC program into SAMHSA, the Administration proposes moving the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant program out of ONDCP and into the Department of Justice.
- \$452 for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), a \$74 million cut
- \$1,296,000,000 for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a \$124 million cut
- Level funding of \$1.625 billion for Community Health Centers within the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA)
- Creation of \$500 million America's Health Block Grant within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Level funding of \$475 million for the Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) program within the CDC

### HHS announces second installment of year-1 State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding

Yesterday the Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) a second installment of funding for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grants, which were first awarded last year. These funds, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will expand access to opioid-specific treatment, recovery, and prevention services. In a press release, Secretary Alex Azar said, "One year ago this week, President Trump launched his national opioid initiative, which called for expanding access to compassionate, evidence-based treatment, including MAT. This week's funding awards to states were possible because of legislation Congress passed and President Trump signed since then. Our strategy is beginning to produce results, thanks to so many Americans working on the ground, in their own communities, to turn the tide on this crisis."

Congress appropriated a total of \$1.5 billion for SOR in FY 2019 (Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2020). The next installment of FY 2019 funding is expected to be awarded later this fiscal year.

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## In the News

### **Recent study finds that less than half of U.S. adults receive screening for alcohol misuse**

According to a recent [study](#), only 41 percent of American adults age 35 and older are screened for alcohol misuse. Of those who report drinking unhealthy amounts of alcohol and received screening, less than one-quarter reported having received counseling, according to the study. The study reviewed 2014 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey data and found that there was room for improvement in screening and counseling for other leading causes of death. Researchers found that the rate for receiving recommended screening and counseling for tobacco use was 62 percent. The authors concluded that solutions to increase the delivery of each of these services should be tailored to the local environment to balance the competing demands of primary care.



## Upcoming Events

### **Webinar on preventing opioid misuse in older adults**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a webinar, "[Improving Opioid Misuse Prevention Literacy Between Older Adults and Health Care Providers](#)." The webinar will focus on substance misuse, especially opioid misuse, among older adults in the U.S. In particular, presenters will discuss the importance of health literacy in preventing prescription opioid misuse in this population. The webinar will be held on March 28th at 2:00 pm EST.

### **SAMHSA webinar on engaging people from Hispanic and Latinx communities in treatment and recovery services**

SAMHSA's Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) will be hosting a "Recovery LIVE!" event about [engaging people from Hispanic and Latinx communities in treatment and recovery services](#) that are culturally responsive. Presenters will share their experiences providing services to individuals and families from Hispanic and Latinx communities, and discuss how programs can be more responsive to the culturally diverse needs of those communities to improve engagement and retention in services. The virtual event will be held on March 28th at 2:00 pm EST.