

LOUISIANA

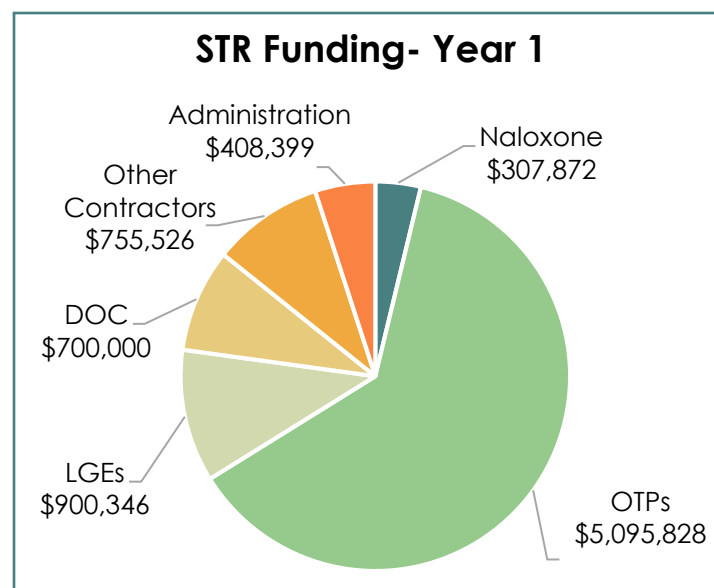
USE OF STR/SOR GRANT FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

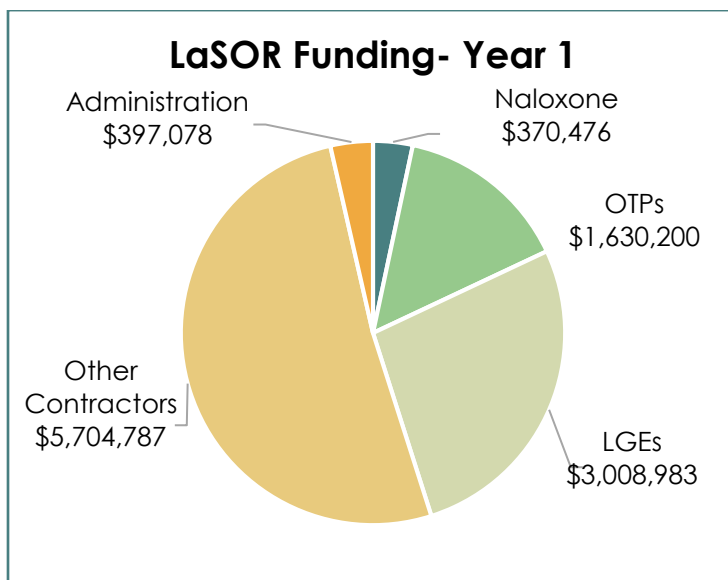
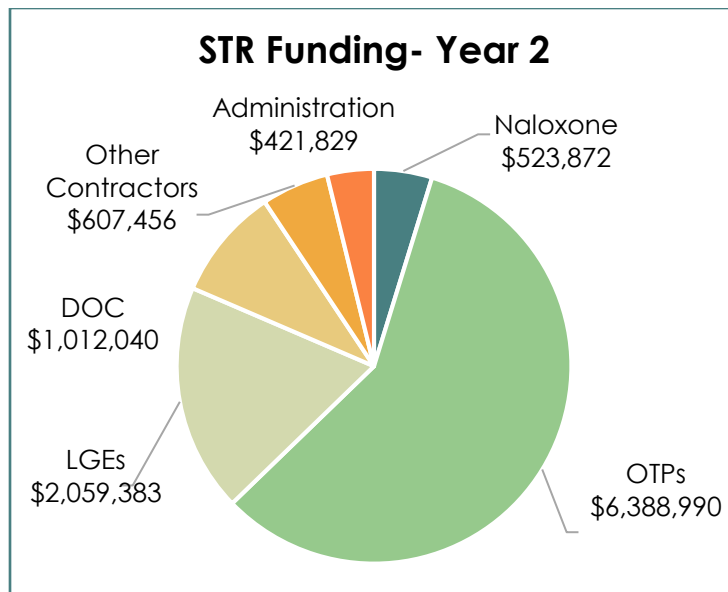
Background on opioid-specific grants to States

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. These grants aim to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) in the States. States received a total of \$500 million for each of FY 2017 and FY 2018 through STR. Additionally, in FY 2018, States received an additional \$1 billion in new funding through the SOR grants. In FY 2019, States received \$1.5 billion through SOR. Eligible applicants for both STR and SOR are the State alcohol and drug agencies.

Allocations for Louisiana

Louisiana received \$8 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$11.5 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Louisiana received a total of \$17.8 million through SOR.



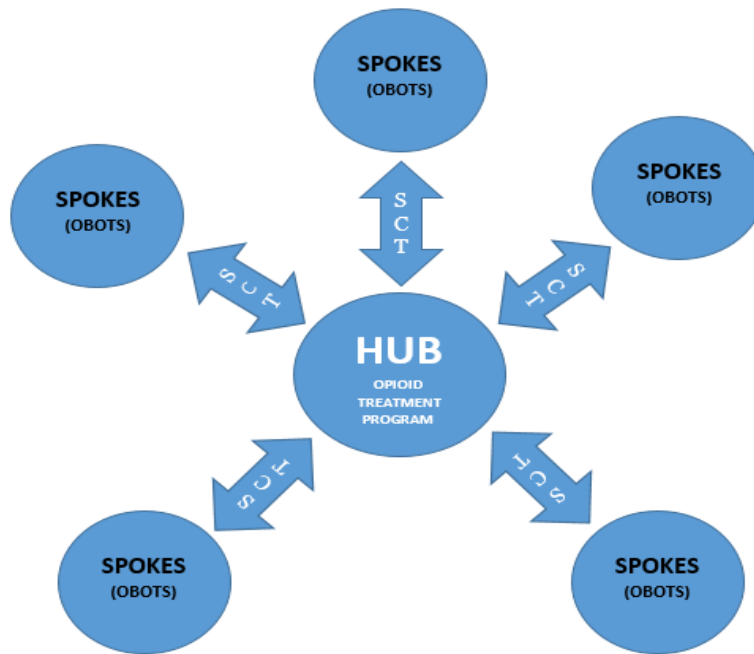


Overview of Louisiana's efforts to address the opioid crisis

Louisiana's State Targeted Response (STR) grant aims to educate the public, providers, prescribers, and other health care professionals about: prescription opioid use and prescribing risks, use of naloxone, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat OUD, and training professionals to implement evidence-based practices (EBPs). The final goal of the STR initiative is to increase the number of individuals with an OUD diagnosis who are being treated with EBPs, especially MAT, by 1 670 individuals, as well as to increase recovery support services by 600 individuals.

Louisiana's SOR ("LaSOR") grant funds are utilized to enhance and expand capacity of OUD treatment providers to provide a full array of comprehensive services, including: screening; assessment; orientation; urine drug screens; methadone management and other forms of MAT; counseling (individual, group, and/or family); and case coordination. The Louisiana

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) utilizes a multi-faceted, collaborative approach to implement a “Hub and Spoke” network to expand access to MAT and increase accessibility to services.



Spokes are the ongoing care system comprised of prescribing physicians who monitor adherence to treatment, care coordination, and provide SBIRT. (OBOTS)

SCTs are staffed with a Nurse and Licensed Mental Health Professional and will be the liaisons between the hubs and spokes. (Support Teams)

Hubs are the designated Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) responsible for coordinating the care of individuals across systems and providing appropriate MAT as well as connecting to appropriate community services where necessary.

Collaborating with local entities and partners

The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) implemented the Louisiana Opioid State Targeted Response (STR) Initiative throughout the State of Louisiana with the help of ten Local Governing Entities (LGEs), ten Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs), and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DOC), as well as local providers and coalitions.

SOR was implemented with the help of ten Local Governing Entities (LGEs), ten Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs), LSU Health Sciences Center (New Orleans), Tulane University, LSU Social Research and Evaluation Center (Baton Rouge), the Department of Corrections and the Office of Public Health. Other collaborators included local provider agencies, office-based opioid treatment providers (OBOTs), and coalitions funded by other grants.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

Training, Education, and Technical Assistance

In an effort to strategically support the LA STR Training Education and Technical Assistance Coordinators (TETAs) within the State's ten Local Governing Entities (LGEs), OBH developed a SharePoint Site where TETAs could easily and readily access resources. OBH has also held monthly support calls for TETAs. In year 1, STR educated 2,426 public providers, prescribers and other health care professionals, and provided direct training to 104 other professionals. In year 2, the STR initiative educated 7,377 public providers, prescribers, and other health care professionals, and provided direct training to 781 professionals.

OBH is also hosting webinars and on-site trainings, as well as providing resources for medical staff and clinicians, on SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, as well as other evidence-based practices. Technical assistance is being provided by Southwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center (SW PTTC).

Public Service Campaign

STR funds were used to design and implement an opioids awareness and education public service campaign. The campaign directs people with an opioid addiction (and/or their families, friends, loved ones) to the appropriate treatment resources, which were made available to all LGEs to disseminate. The opioid awareness campaign can be accessed at opioidhelppla.gov.

Special Populations

OBH partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH's) Bureau of Family Health within the Office of Public Health to pilot a screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) program at a local hospital, aimed at identifying women with OUD who are either pregnant or have a child with neonatal opiate withdrawal symptoms. Those identified are referred to a program that prioritizes co-location of the mother and infant, maternal access to OUD treatment, and promotion of practices that minimize harm and improve outcomes in infants. This program provides services for opioid exposed infants that are safe alternatives to the intensive care unit in existing community or hospital settings. By the end of SOR Grant, it is anticipated that the contracted hospital will have integrated SBIRT into their regular screening and assessment procedures for clients, eliminating the need for a SBIRT coordinator.

OBH also coordinated with the Woman's Foundation in Lafayette to provide statewide continuing medical education for physicians, nurses, social workers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, chiropractors, and other medical and healthcare professionals on the unique treatment needs of women and special populations.

Prevention Focused on Youth

STR funding is allowing the implementation of the new Life Skills Training Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (LST Rx) Module that gives adolescents the skills and knowledge necessary to help them avoid the misuse of opioids and prescription drugs. This module is particularly useful for school districts, community-based organizations, and agencies serving students in grades 6 – 9, as it can be implemented as a standalone prevention initiative addressing the middle school population. The LST Rx Module is now being used by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, reaching approximately 50,000 students per year.

Prevention Across the Lifespan

Local Governing Entities (LGEs) were encouraged to provide opioid prevention education and resources across the lifespan with implementation of Generation Rx. Generation Rx is an opioid specific program which includes seven (7) modules designed to provide education on prescription drug misuse and promote medication safety with people of all ages. The seven (7) modules focus on elementary, teen, college, adult, patients, seniors, and workplace populations. Specific modules were used to educate people about the potential dangers of misusing prescription medications and to enhance medication safety. Generation Rx was facilitated in schools and community settings. To date, Generation Rx has been provided to 405 individuals.

The Office of Behavioral Health also recently partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS), to present the Senior Module of Generation Rx at their quarterly meetings for providers statewide. Meeting participants included administrators of companies who have staff that go into the home for assistance to the elderly and aging population for things such as errands, picking up prescriptions, and overseeing medication administration. Meeting presentations are on current topics for the elderly and adults with disabilities to include education, resources and available services specific to opioid misuse and addiction within the elderly/aging population.

Center for Prevention Resources

The Office of Behavioral Health and Southern University A & M College have established the Statewide Center for Prevention Resources (CPR). The CPR will provide training and technical assistance services to the Substance Abuse Prevention Workforce. The CPR will increase capacity, skills and expertise to ensure and/or enhance delivery of effective substance use prevention interventions, trainings and other prevention activities. These services will be available to youth, communities, professionals, institutions of higher education, and others in the community. The CPR is being funded by STR, LaSOR, and SAPT Block Grant funds.

Intervention:

Overdose Reversal Efforts

During Year 1 of STR, 4,006 naloxone kits were distributed to LGEs, OTPs, the Department of Corrections (DOC), coalition members, community providers, residential providers, recovery homes (Oxford Houses), first responders, etc. In year 2 of STR, that number was increased to

6,717 naloxone kits. An ad-hoc committee of OBH, Office of Public Health, the Attorney General's Office and Emergency Management Services was formed to ensure collaboration of distribution. Efforts were coordinated with existing Partnerships for Success (PFS) grantees at the local level.

SOR funds have also been utilized to implement naloxone kit distribution. A total of 3,406 naloxone kits have been distributed across Louisiana to OTPs, first responders, clients and families, sheriff's offices, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and emergency room departments with the intention of patients receiving them at first contact and upon discharge. A tracking mechanism is currently being put into place.

Prescription Drug Drop-off Boxes

Each of the 10 Local Governing Entities (LGEs) will receive 5 prescription drug drop-off boxes during the two-year grant period, to be placed strategically in their catchment area in both traditional locations such as clinics and pharmacies, and non-traditional places such as with the coroner's office and University housing units. OBH is also working with Medicaid to reduce prescription limits and support policies for prescriber education.

Increasing access to treatment

OBH enhanced and expanded existing OUD treatment availability statewide by building the capacity of the local opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and other substance use provider networks to provide access to evidence-based treatments, particularly MAT, and recovery support services to individuals with OUD. The priority populations focused on include: the under- and un-insured; those involved in the criminal justice system; State-recognized tribes; and pregnant women or women with infants experiencing neonatal opioid withdrawal symptoms.

STR funds are being utilized to enhance and expand capacity to provide a full array of comprehensive services, including but not limited to: screening, assessment, orientation, urine drug screens, methadone management, individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, case coordination etc. In addition, each OTP was provided with funding to hire one Resource Coordinator and one Peer Recovery Support Specialist function as liaisons or intermediaries to form sound partnerships and collaborations with their LGE and the STR staff to carry out the goals of the project.

- The OTP Resource Coordinator ensures that each patient requesting services is assessed for need, enrolled in benefits, admitted to treatment, and/or put in contact with the appropriate community providers for services that are not available at the point of entry site. They also help those in the criminal justice system prepare for re-entry.
- The OTP Peer Recovery Support Specialist provides direct assistance in accessing recovery-focused meetings, one-to-one recovery coaching, outreach and publicity efforts, assistance with transportation needs, and other related services.

- Department of Corrections (DOC) provides two treatment programs for releasing offenders in the Greater Baton Rouge area (one for male clients and another for females). Treatment is individualized and include Medication Assisted Therapy.

A relationship has been developed with the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center to provide support, training, and technical assistance to the identified Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) providers identified as spokes. Approximately five spokes are being identified within each LGE's catchment area. The exact number and location of spokes are contingent upon each LGE's needs. A total of fifty spokes are being identified statewide. Each spoke will serve 20 new clients in year one and 15 new clients in year two, totaling 1,750 individuals over the two-year SOR Grant. Tulane University is providing the peer-to-peer consultation through the ECHO model to ensure professionals are receiving training and providing the most updated, advanced and appropriate practices.

Supporting recovery

To ensure continuity of care, engagement and retention of the STR-supported clients, nine LGEs and the State's OTPs were provided funding to hire a Regional Behavioral Health Peer Recovery Support Specialist (BH-PRSS). The tenth LGE, Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD), did not receive funding for this position because they received funding through SAMHSA Medication-Assisted Treatment/Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) grant program to hire peer support specialists. The Regional BH-PRSS assisted with continuity of care and supported the ongoing recovery effort of each individual receiving treatment services. The Regional BH-PRSS played a vital role to mentor and advocate for participants and provided the supports necessary to help engage and retain them, including through using outreach efforts to pre-screen likely target individuals, and establishing an early trust bond. All Regional BH-PRSS were trained using an existing statewide system established by OBH, which was developed by RI International of Arizona (formerly Recovery Innovations).

SOR is expanding recovery homes by funding three peers/outreach workers. Two (2) outreach workers are working with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC) with the re-entry population, with a focus on persons with OUD transitioning from incarceration to the community. Re-entry centers will be offered face-to-face workshops on OUD and MAT. One (1) outreach worker serves as a peer trainer to target Oxford Chapters and provide workshops/trainings on MAT to Oxford Homes statewide. One hundred individuals statewide will be trained on MAT per year, totaling 200 recovery home residents over two years. These trainings encourage non-discrimination against persons on who are receiving MAT in their recovery. In addition, the outreach workers will expand the number of recovery homes statewide by 10 recovery homes per year, totaling 20 recovery houses over two years. Each home will have at least four residents with OUD (totaling 80 residents)

Outcomes: STR

- 9,803 public providers, prescribers and other health care professionals participated in education and awareness activities to increase knowledge about the importance of opioids.
- 885 professionals were trained on evidence-based practices (EBP) for treating OUD
- 2,122 clients were enrolled in OUD treatment
- 1,358 individuals received recovery support services
- 10,723 naloxone kits distributed

Outcome goals for SOR (to be collected during year 1, ending September 30, 2019)

- Increase access to MAT for the under- and un-insured with an OUD diagnosis by 2,150 individuals
- Increase access to recovery support services for patients on MAT and those reentering communities from criminal justice settings for 200 individuals
- Increase outreach to community programs
- Identify and address needs of 5 State-recognized tribes
- Increase public and professional awareness, education for prevention and treatment for OUD for 800 Physician's and Clinicians
- Distribute a total of 10,000 naloxone kits (5,000 kits/year)
- Provide Life Skills Training for approximately 50,000 youth
- Increase number of prescription drug drop boxes by 50
- Provide Generation Rx curricula in schools

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