

MINNESOTA

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 Minnesota

Minnesota received \$5.3 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$8.8 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Minnesota received a total of \$13.5 million through SOR.

Overview of Minnesota's efforts to address the opioid crisis

Minnesota is using STR/SOR funding to expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), as well as reduce opioid overdose deaths by expanding access to naloxone. The State has also developed two prevention media campaigns.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

Media Campaigns

- Minnesota developed and maintains the [Know the Dangers](#) campaign, aimed at the public to increase awareness of and reduce deaths related to opioid overdose.
- Minnesota has utilized SOR funding to develop a provider education campaign, [Flip the Script](#), to change the narrative around prescription and opioid therapy, pain management, and prescription opioid misuse in Minnesota.

Local Coalitions

Minnesota has made it a priority to involve local communities in its efforts. For the Flip the Script campaign, Minnesota worked collaboratively with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) to develop webinars and provide continuing medical education credits through MMA's webinar series. The Know the Dangers awareness campaign involves working with communities that have significant health disparities to develop culturally appropriate materials.

Special Populations

Minnesota has utilized the Know the Dangers awareness campaign materials to target the American Indian, African American, pregnant and parenting women, and LGBTQ populations. Minnesota will be utilizing SOR funding to target homeless and justice-involved populations. Minnesota has utilized the STR and SOR funding to complete a Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Prescription Drug Prevention project for Leech Lake and Pine River-Backus Schools to educate students, parents, school faculty and community members on prescription drug misuse.

Women's Services

The Minnesota Department of Human Services contracted with all of the eleven Women's Recovery Services grantees to provide additional peer support services to pregnant and parenting women currently using opioids. Funding amounts ranged from \$54,400 to \$110,000. During this grant period, 123 persons were served for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) by provision of Peer Recovery Support Services and 91 persons (unduplicated count) were served for OUD Treatment. The majority of the persons served identified as Black/African Americans and fell in the age range of 25 years to 44 years old. Of these numbers, 21 pregnant women were provided peer recovery support services and 14 pregnant women were provided OUD treatment.

All eleven (11) grantees were required to report (twice during the contract year) their activities related to the STR additional funding. This is a summary of mid- and end-of-fiscal year 2019 reports of 8 of the eleven grantees. Grantees were also required to report on a number of areas. The following is a summary of the responses to questions specific to the STR funding they received.

The eleven grantees identified the following goals and objectives (in summary):

- Utilize evidence-based Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) model that uses paraprofessionals called Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) or Recovery Coaches to support pregnant and parenting mothers with opioid use disorders (OUDs).
- Support PRS to enroll and complete the Community Health Worker certification with a specialization in Maternal and Child Health
- Hire and train a PRS to assist clients with removing barriers to treatment and to provide expanded services to participants including more in-depth parenting education.
- Offer specialized peer services to participants with OUD.

Work plan Activities

All of the grantees reported that they planned to utilize the funds to hire an additional Peer Recovery Specialist to provide services to women experiencing OUD. Those new Peer Recovery Specialists would attend Recovery Coach Academy Training either through Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) in the Twin Cities or Recovery is Happening (RIH) in Rochester, Minnesota and also receive training in the Parent and Child Assistance (PCAP)

model and participate in Community Health Worker Training Program. All WRS grantees planned to receive training in naloxone administration, and few others also planned to actively distribute naloxone kits to clients and others dealing with OUD in the community. One WRS grantee also received funding to serve as an educational resource for providers in need of information and skill-building on providing substance use care and treatment to pregnant and parenting women. This organization hired an Education & Prevention Specialist to plan and coordinate educational activities and programming.

Program Accomplishments

Eight of the eleven grantees reported that they hired an additional peer recovery specialist to address the special needs of pregnant and parenting women with OUD. Five of these grantees utilized STR grant funds to pay for a peer recovery specialist training and preparation for certification. Of those PRS staff hired and trained, three were able to complete the certification process.

Thirteen (13) PRS staff expressed interest and began the Community Health Worker (CHW) training program. However, 6 PRS completed the program and graduated with a CHW certificate specializing in maternal and child health.

The following are accomplishments achieved by specific WRS grantees:

- All clinical and technical staff and clients attended a naloxone training provided by Steve Rummler Hope Foundation.
- Established re-entry coordination, mobile counseling, peer recovery supports and in-home family services to best serve clients who are highly mobile/chronically homeless; pregnant, parenting and postpartum; and incarcerated or involved with CPS and drug court.
- Hosted 13 ECHO (webinar) sessions, with 90 registered organizations, and 150 members that have participated.
- The PRS established a SMART Recovery group that worked closely with the local drug court to help several clients reach their goals.

A significant amount of the STR funding emphasized education and training both of providers and community members on overdose prevention and mitigation. Therefore, a number of community providers offered training on naloxone administration. Other educational opportunities focused on opioid prescribing best practices, and information on Medication Assisted Treatment.

Number and Types of Staff Receiving Opioid Education and Training

	Director	Program Coordinator	Public Health Nurse	LADC	Case Manager	Peer Recovery Specialist	Other
Overdose education	4	4	4	6	5	5	2
Opioid Prescribing Guidelines	2	2	1	0	0	0	2
Medication Assisted Treatment	4	4	4	4	3	3	3

Increasing access to treatment

Focusing on MAT

Minnesota is using STR/SOR funding to expand medication-assisted treatment (MAT), specifically through support for:

- Office-based opioid treatment (OBOT);
- Project ECHO;
- Community integration efforts for expansion of MAT across the continuum of care;
- Creation of [Fast-Tracker](#), a website showing real-time treatment bed availability;
- The Parent-Child Assistance Program, a peer support program for pregnant and parenting women and newborns prenatally exposed to opioids; and
- Increasing the OUD workforce with the creation and training of mental health professionals on OUD, training for opioid assessments in rural Minnesota, and vocational rehabilitation for those in recovery from OUD.

Project ECHO

Minnesota has utilized STR/SOR funds to create three Project ECHO hubs, designed to increase participation in MAT:

- Hub 1: Expertise in addiction medicine that focuses on evidence-based assessment and management of patients with OUD and associated comorbidities.
- Hub 2: Provides capacity and competency building regarding best practices for serving pregnant, post-partum, and parenting women struggling with OUD.
- Hub 3: Provides expertise and experience on best practices in addressing OUD in the family practice setting

Workforce Training

- Minnesota funded the integration of MAT and **addiction medicine training** at the University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (UMDFMCH).
- Minnesota has utilized STR and SOR funding to provide a **Buprenorphine Boot Camp**, which allows providers to attend Drug Addiction treatment Act (DATA) waiver training to prescribe buprenorphine for OUD treatment. Those involved in the Boot Camp are then offered an opportunity to access to the additional online waiver training free of charge.

Special Populations

- Minnesota will be using SOR funding to offer MAT in criminal justice settings, specifically at pretrial, post-sentencing, and pre-arrest diversion sites.
- Minnesota has used STR and SOR funding to increase access to MAT in urban communities, as well as for Native Americans residing on reservations.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Minnesota has expanded training on and access to naloxone for lay persons, persons with family/friends with OUD, hospitals, treatment centers, sober living facilities, community members, and treatment courts.

Supporting recovery

- Certified peer recovery specialists will be funded to provide recovery support services to high school and college students (SOR)
- Peer navigators to increase access to MAT for Mille Lacs Band tribal entity (SOR)
- Increasing opioid-specific peer recovery and care coordination (STR)
- Piloting the Parent Child Assistance Program, a peer support program for pre- and post-natal mothers (STR)

Collaborating with local entities

Minnesota works with local jurisdictions in implementing programs supported by STR/SOR. The State invested in community integration efforts under the SOR and STR funding to assist communities (health care providers, tribal governments, local collaborative, etc.) in creating their own “controlled substance care teams” to improve community-wide coordination of opioid use prevention and treatment efforts. Some local jurisdictions have created “no wrong door” initiatives to assist in helping those with OUD access treatment and recovery supports. Others have reviewed health care records to determine inappropriate opioid prescribing and implemented multi-disciplinary plans to appropriately decrease opioid prescribing. Minnesota has also had STR all-grantee meetings, providing education, networking, and sharing of information to strengthen community-level efforts.

Positive outcomes

- 36 evidence-based programs implemented
- 21 programs were expanded to serve individuals receiving MAT
- 2,288 individuals received medication-assisted treatment services
- 12,604 naloxone kits distributed
- 3,827 individuals trained in naloxone administration
- 1,141 people received recovery support services

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