

MISSISSIPPI

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 Mississippi

Mississippi received \$3.5 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$7.6 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Mississippi received a total of \$11.6 million through SOR.

Overview of Mississippi's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The goals of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for its STR and SOR grants were to expand access to treatment and recovery support services for the uninsured and underinsured, raise awareness of the opioid crisis in Mississippi, and improve the provider workforce through training and development. Under STR, the majority of funding went to treatment and recovery support as well as a new campaign, *Stand Up, Mississippi*, spreading knowledge about the risks and consequences of opioid addiction along with increasing access to naloxone. Under SOR, they are continuing their efforts to bring treatment services to underserved communities, including those in rural settings as well as vulnerable populations like pregnant and parenting women both in face-to-face settings and through telehealth. *Stand Up, Mississippi* will have a specific focus on prevention of opioid misuse in higher-risk occupations such as construction, manufacturing, and food service industries. SOR will also support treatment workforce development training.

Prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

Media and Website Campaign

In December of 2017 the DMH, in collaboration with six other State agencies, announced the launch of *Stand Up, Mississippi*, a comprehensive media campaign about the opioid crisis. As part of the campaign, DMH and its partners launched www.standupms.org, a website that includes educational information about opioids, treatment options, and drop box locations, as well as a naloxone locator and stories of recovery. The *Opioid Workplace Awareness Initiative* (<https://owai.standupms.org/>) focuses on promoting prevention, treatment and recovery in higher-risk occupations where work-related injuries are more common.

Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) serves as a member of the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative which meets regularly throughout the year to gather and discuss data surrounding the opioid epidemic. Reports are released quarterly, and members include the Board of Pharmacy, Bureau of Narcotics, Department of Health, and the University of Southern Mississippi. This data is critical for targeting prevention efforts.

SOR Planned Programs

- Primary prevention education campaign geared towards 3rd and 4th graders
- Providing training to case management staff tasked with caring for high-risk pregnant and parenting women and their babies.
- Expanding knowledge concerning naloxone.

Increasing access to treatment

- Under STR, DMH provided reimbursement for multiple forms of MAT, including methadone, buprenorphine (tablets and film), and naltrexone (injectable and oral). These along with injectable and implantable buprenorphine can also be reimbursed under SOR.
- The State is providing workforce development trainings surrounding treatment modalities through the Mississippi Public Health Institute. Training is free to DMH-certified providers and includes topics such as MAT, SBIRT, and neonatal abstinence syndrome.
- The *Stand Up, Mississippi* website includes a list of DMH-certified treatment providers.
- Through the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the State is expanding access to MAT with the use of telehealth technology. This pilot is being funded through SOR and has just begun treating its first patients. Called TeleMAT, this allows patients in areas void of adequate MAT prescribers to obtain these services.
- As part of their notice of award for STR/SOR funds, and in accordance with DMH standards, providers are required to prioritize pregnant women seeking treatment for OUD.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

DMH implemented a naloxone training program and distributed naloxone kits to law enforcement officers and first responders. Since August 2017, over 7,200 individuals have been trained on its use and over 17,400 doses distributed. This has resulted in at least 91 lives saved. The *Stand Up, Mississippi* website also provides information on naloxone distribution locations.

Supporting recovery

- Increased hourly reimbursement rate for Peer Support Services, and will reimburse travel time to and from UMMC in Jackson for initial treatments under the TeleMAT program.
- SOR funding used to support collegiate recovery programming through Mississippi State University's Department of Health Promotion and Wellness.
- *Opioid Workplace Awareness Initiative* (through *Stand Up, Mississippi*) advocates for treatment and recovery support for employees with OUD and other substance use disorders.

Collaborating with local entities

Through the *Stand Up, Mississippi* campaign and other outreach efforts, from August 2017 through December 2018, more than 21,000 people attended more than 170 opioid-related events, including town hall meetings, conferences, and civic organization events.

Positive outcomes

- Patients Utilizing MAT under STR:
 - Methadone: 563
 - Buprenorphine: 1,406
 - Naltrexone: 72
- Patients utilizing MAT under SOR:
 - Methadone: 695
 - Buprenorphine: 949
 - Naltrexone: 8
- Through funded treatment providers, 881 unique clients have received peer support services under STR, and 258 under SOR.
- Under SOR, thus far at least 25 pregnant patients have been treated.

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