

RHODE ISLAND

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 Rhode Island

Rhode Island received \$2.1 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$12.5 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Rhode Island received a total of \$19.1 million through SOR.

Overview of Rhode Island's efforts to address the opioid crisis

Rhode Island created a statewide plan for services and programs across the continuum of care after conducting needs assessments. The State's Overdose Task Force and Division of Behavioral Healthcare created strategic plans that address the three leading priorities of access, quality, and safety through the five following strategies:

1. Prevent the onset of substance use
2. Intervene early to address substance misuse
3. Provide a continuum of treatment services
4. Develop and provide a wide array of recovery support services
5. Analyze and communicate data to improve the system of care

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

- Statewide "Count it, Lock it, Drop it" prevention program
- Supporting comprehensive responses using strategic planning and needs/capacity assessments

- Increasing prevention activities regarding prescription and illicit drugs
- Implementation of Project Lazarus, an evidence-based prevention program
- Under SOR, RI will distribute and create a public awareness campaign on the dangers of counterfeit drugs and illicit drugs with fentanyl

Increasing access to treatment

- Increasing the use of screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT)
- STR funded Nurse Care Managers to support physicians who provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) which led to an increase in Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waived prescribers
- STR Funded “Safe Stations”: A 24/7 walk in program at any of Providence’s 12 fire stations that will provide immediate access to peer support and services as needed.
- MAT is currently available through the Department of Corrections for justice-involved individuals. SOR funding was used for the creation of additional Safe Stations in Newport, RI.
- Under SOR, RI will enhance detox services to engage resistant individuals to reconsider MAT and create Centers of Excellence liaisons to primary care offices to increase prescriber supports.
- SOR funding will also allow the creation of “Rhode to Health” ambulatory clinic that will offer buprenorphine inductions and HIV education and testing. Behavioral Health Link Mobile services will also be implemented, providing co-occurring assessments and referrals.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Rhode Island is addressing opioid overdoses by raising public awareness on the signs and symptoms of overdose and providing education to the general public on ways to reduce overdose deaths. The Surveillance Response Initiative Meeting reviews emergency department (ED) reports and sends out increased opioid overdose activity alerts to specific geo-mapped areas and designated community response teams. Under SOR, the State will purchase “Naloxboxes” to be placed in high-risk areas (libraries, malls etc.). RI will also increase naloxone distribution to family members of those soon to be released from the Department of Corrections.

Supporting recovery

- Anchor ED Program-All 11 Rhode Island hospitals plan to utilize peer supports as well as arranging for signed consents for follow up in the event the patient declines a peer visit
- RI created a recovery-friendly employment committee
- Recovery houses became certified to meet the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards in order to receive State and federal funding and all houses are required to accept MAT clients
- Specialty trained peers working with families with neonatal abstinence syndrome at birthing hospitals and in OTPs

- Under SOR, RI is creating an anti-stigma campaign and implementing a Medication-Assisted Recovery Support Train the Trainer program.

Collaborating with local entities

Rhode Island collaborates with Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College to implement newer research findings into practices and services for those with OUD. Five Regional Prevention Coalitions work with Community Overdose Engagement groups, which consist of 29 municipalities receiving funding to implement suggested individualized community activities that increase; prevention, rescue (naloxone distribution), treatment access (Safe Stations); Project Lazarus (an EBP); and local recovery capital. Rhode Island also contracts with 5 Recovery Community Centers to work with peers and coordinate treatment throughout the State.

Positive outcomes

- 351 MAT prescribers allowing for an increased capacity of 24,735 patients
- 92 individuals served through “Safe Stations”
- 889 individuals received Addiction 101 and naloxone training
- 174 peer recovery specialists trained
- 2,823 individuals served by peer specialists in 2018
- 795 individuals placed in certified recovery housing

For more information, contact Robert Morrison, Executive Director, at rmorrison@nasadad.org, or Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman, Federal Affairs Manager, at swickramatilake@nasadad.org.