

# SOUTH DAKOTA

## 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 South Dakota

South Dakota received \$2 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$4 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, South Dakota received a total of \$6 million through SOR.

### Overview of South Dakota's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) is using STR and SOR funds to:

1. Increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid related overdose deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.
2. Supplement current opioid activities being implemented.
3. Support a comprehensive response to the opioid crisis using a strategic planning process inclusive of needs and capacity assessments.

### Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

The current prevention system in South Dakota is assessed through alignment with the National Governors Association's (NGA) Opioid Road Strategy Grades. Health care strategies for prevention and early identification in South Dakota include:

## **Developing and Updating Prescribing Guidelines**

- Newly developed guidelines for opioid prescribers related to the treatment of chronic and acute pain.
- Recommendations that any newly developed guidelines include dosing, day limits, and limited prescriptions for acute pain.
- Review of any current guidelines, and recommendations for revisions or additions based on CDC-developed prescribing guidelines.

## **Maximizing the use and effectiveness of the State PDMP**

- Integration of the State's existing Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) with electronic health records in the three major health systems in South Dakota.
- Enhancement of the PDMP to include clinical reports and custom alerts to prescribers and pharmacists when selected thresholds are met or exceeded within a time period.
- Training and resources for PDMP users to help them better analyze trends in opioid prescribing, identify and assess potential risk factors, and support patient needs.

## **Raising public awareness about the dangers of prescription opioids and services available**

- Implementation of a multimedia campaign to increase awareness and knowledge about risks of prescription opioids.
- Establishment of the South Dakota Opioid Resource Hotline to connect concerned individuals or loved ones with resources in their communities.
- Creation of a statewide prescription drug take back site registry accessible online or by calling the South Dakota Opioid Resource Hotline.
- Increased access to key data through interactive dashboards accessible online.
- Development of broadcast testimonials from South Dakotans with lived experience to destigmatize opioid addiction and encourage hope for those seeking help.
- Marketing and promotion of treatment services for opioid use disorder, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and Opioid Care Coordination.
- Expanded access to permanent take-back locations statewide, increasing accessibility to safe disposal options for prescription drugs.

## **Education to communities, youth and special populations**

- Evidence-based program delivery to middle- and high school youth on the dangers of opioid use through regional Prevention Resource Centers, community coalitions, and youth-serving organizations.
- Support for institutions of higher education to develop peer-led prescription drug misuse prevention programming on campus.
- Development of multimedia educational materials that are culturally sensitive for Native Americans, disseminated primarily through GoodHealthTV® in tribal schools and clinics.

## **Workforce Training**

- Continuing education courses delivered in partnership with established professional organizations in state, targeting pain management, responsible prescribing, and treatment of opioid use disorder.
- Integrated clinical alerts and prescriber report capacity through the State's PDMP.

## **Engaging the Community**

- Launch of the Community Opioid Abuse Response Effort (COARE) to facilitate community-specific training and convenings aimed at helping community stakeholders better coordinate resources and define an action plan in support of their community's response to incidences of opioid misuse or overdose.
- Facilitated community town hall meetings to increase awareness and knowledge about risks of prescription opioids, leveraging strategies from SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit.

## **Increasing access to treatment**

### **Workforce Support and Training**

- Listen & Learn Sessions regarding MAT for treatment providers, continued with a custom webinar series and capstone training in partnership with the South Dakota Association of Addiction & Prevention Professionals.
- Support for South Dakota's first ECHO Hub focusing on opioid use disorder and medication-assisted treatment.
- Capacity building for an additional ECHO Hub targeted to the needs of addiction treatment professionals.
- Continuing education courses delivered in partnership with established professional organizations on the treatment of opioid use disorder, including American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Buprenorphine Waiver Courses and Opioid Response Network training.

### **Opioid Care Coordination**

- Newly established care coordination service in partnership with the South Dakota Opioid Resource Hotline that connects individuals and loved ones seeking help with resources in their communities and navigates the recovery journey alongside them.
- Supports for information exchange system enhancements between prescribers and community-based mental health partners/addiction treatment facilities through the State's Health Information Exchange.

## Access to MAT

- Supports for technical assistance to providers seeking to enhance referral systems and linkages to medication-assisted treatment.
- Capacity-building efforts to four MAT hubs that expand access to care statewide through office-based and telemedicine-based care.
- Enhanced awareness of treatment options and cost assistance available.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

- Coordinated program in partnership with Department of Health to train first responders in Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND).
- Enhanced emergency medical service records to support real-time tracking of naloxone administration and patient outcomes.
- Establishment of regional trainers across the State in OEND.
- Coordinated distribution and responsible ordering/storage of naloxone at the Department of Health State offices.

## Supporting recovery

### Improve treatment retention and recovery through peer and family support services

- Expansion of an extensive peer recovery support model supported by in-person offices and a virtual network, modeled after a hub and spoke system supporting access to peer recovery services statewide.

## Positive outcomes

As of August 2019:

- More than 5,000 middle and high school aged youth participated in awareness and educational programming.
- 1,059 emergency responders (e.g. EMS professionals, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Highway Patrol, local law enforcement) have been trained in Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution (OEND).
- 2,864 naloxone doses have been distributed with 262 successful overdose reversals.
- More than 800 individuals attended town hall meetings on the opioid crisis across SD.
- More than 1,500 peer coaching sessions have been delivered, impacting 367 South Dakotans.

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