

# TENNESSEE

## 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 Tennessee

Tennessee received \$13.8 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$18.5 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Tennessee received a total of \$28.2 million through SOR.

### Overview of Tennessee's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The Tennessee STR grant worked to reduce the number of overdose-related deaths through naloxone distribution, trained professionals and key stakeholders on opioid use disorders, implemented an Opioid Overdose Rapid Response System, improved access and availability of clinical treatment and recovery services, expanded access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and implemented new strategies for pregnant women and supplemented existing resources.

Under SOR, "Changing Behavior, Coordinating Care, and Restoring Lives" will increase awareness of the dangers of opioids; educate key stakeholders on preventing overdose; reduce the number of overdose-related deaths through naloxone distribution; train health professionals to assess and treat individuals with OUD; and expand access to MAT, clinical treatment, and recovery services through a Hub and Spoke model.

## Prevention: training stakeholders on the risks associated with OUD

- Provided training to law enforcement, first responders, lay people, and health professionals throughout the State on opioid use disorder (OUD), harm reduction, opioid overdose, and stigma.
- Currently developing a multimodal training program for healthcare professionals on the assessment and treatment of OUD, including Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver training.

## Increasing access to treatment

Tennessee expanded MAT access for the uninsured by increasing the States treatment provider network. Prior to STR/SOR funding, Tennessee's public addiction treatment system adhered to an abstinence-based model. The STR/SOR funds have allowed Tennessee to add the harm reduction model as an additional pathway to recovery.

Tennessee targeted pregnant women with STR funding and continues to expand access to all clinical treatment services.

Through SOR funding, Tennessee is establishing a Hub and Spoke system. This will increase access to MAT to include all three FDA-approved medications. Additionally, the clients enrolled in the system will receive clinical treatment and recovery support services.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS), through the TN Save a Life program, prioritized outreach to first responders and individuals who are at high risk of overdose, their families, and friends. ROPS have been embedded in county coalitions to provide a regional hub to plan and coordinate evidenced-based and emerging practices to maximize community involvement. ROPS work collaboratively with coalitions to ensure that key stakeholders across the State receive training on opioid overdose, opioid use disorder, harm reduction, stigma, and naloxone use. In addition to providing training, ROPS distributes naloxone to individuals at high risk of overdose and other key stakeholders in the community.

## Supporting recovery

A broad range of recovery support services are available through the STR funding. These include case management, employment skills, health/wellness, spiritual/pastoral support, recovery activities, recovery skills, relapse prevention, transportation, and transitional housing.

## Collaborating with local entities

Tennessee has collaborated with local jurisdictions by providing training and naloxone to local law enforcement and recovery courts.

# Positive outcomes

As of February 2019:

- 7,526 individuals received treatment and recovery services through the STR program
- 967 patients received buprenorphine and 895 received naltrexone
- 4,932 individuals received recovery support services
- 20,901 naloxone kits distributed to the community and 965 provided to law enforcement
- 1,902 reported overdose reversals

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