

VIRGINIA

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 Virginia

Virginia received \$9.7 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$15.5 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Virginia received a total of \$24 million through SOR.

Overview of Virginia's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is using STR and SOR funds to reduce opioid misuse, educate stakeholders on issues related to addiction, increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), distribute naloxone and offer recovery support services through the employment of peer support specialists.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

- Supported prevention coalition building, community education, and implemented specific supply reduction strategies (lock boxes for drugs, drug destruction bags).
- Established "take back" programs in local pharmacies.
- Produced a series of instructional videos addressing basic competencies in addiction and pain management for health professionals that will be posted on the Virginia Department of Health Professions website; health professionals will earn free Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits required for license renewal.
- Under SOR, Virginia is implementing an "Opioid Use in Pregnancy Safety Bundle" in conjunction with the State health department and State Medicaid agency to reduce

the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in newborns by providing videoconferencing to birthing hospitals and other key stakeholders.

- Funded production and distribution of video trainings to help Child Protective Services workers and In-Home Visitation staff know how to respond constructively to families where addiction is an issue.
- Supporting a data analytics approach that will catalog and provide information on an interactive platform to assist community and State decision-makers in allocating resources using close to real-time data.
- Supporting the “Curb the Crisis” website to provide a “one-stop shop” comprehensive dashboard of data and metrics, educational information, treatment resources, peer supports and self-help resources to help individuals, families and communities address the opioid crisis.

Increasing access to treatment

- Provided the full range of clinical treatment and support services, including utilization of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Expanded the number of Community Service Boards (CSB) providing MAT
- Provided support for a jail-based treatment program to initiate medication-assisted treatment.
- Introduced peer supports to six emergency rooms to provide linkage to services for individuals who have experienced an overdose.
- Expanded Project ECHO (videoconference grand rounds) to support physicians initiating buprenorphine and addressing other components of treating individuals with opioid and other substance use disorders.
- Supported training for clinicians about the use of MAT in adolescents and young adults.
- Under SOR, Virginia is initiating a pilot program to support federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to provide MAT and clinical supports.
- Collaborating with the State criminal justice planning agency to support and coordinate the use of MAT for incarcerated individuals once they are released to the community.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

- Funded 1,881 units (two doses per unit) of naloxone for no-cost distribution at local health departments.
- Funded 1,600 units (two doses per unit) of naloxone for Virginia State Police to carry while on duty; every State Trooper in Virginia now carries naloxone.

Supporting recovery

- Established ten recovery “warm lines” to provide access to support in every region of the State.
- Provided active peer support services in 34 CSBs.

- Introduced peer supports to 20 hospital emergency departments to provide linkage to services for people who have experienced an overdose.
- Under SOR, the State is initiating a “jail peer bridge” program to support individuals with opioid use disorder who are transitioning from local jails back to the community.

Collaborating with local entities

DBHDS is working with the Virginia Higher Education Opioid Consortium to utilize the resources of State universities for communities in addressing the opioid crisis.

Positive outcomes

- 365,649 individuals reached through community mobilization strategies
- 35 local community and coalition readiness assessments conducted
- 6,050,174 individuals (duplicated count) reached through local media campaigns and targeted media messaging
- 513,204 community members educated about naloxone
- 2,323,718 participated in safe storage and disposal efforts
- 1,043 individuals received MAT through 39 CSBs
- Expanded the number of CSBs providing MAT from 16 to 40
- Provided peer support services to 2,275 individuals
- Peer support in emergency rooms resulted in 208 follow-up calls

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