

ARIZONA

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 to States through the SOR grants. In FY 2019, States are receiving \$1.5 billion through SOR. Eligible applicants for both STR and SOR are the State alcohol and drug agencies.

Allocations for Arizona

Arizona received \$12.1 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$19.9 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, Arizona received \$30.8 million through SOR.

Overview of Arizona's efforts to address the opioid crisis

STR/SOR funds in Arizona are used to support projects across prevention, treatment and recovery, with the goal of reducing the prevalence of opioid use disorder and overdose. Objectives include increasing access to naloxone; expanding provider, stakeholder and community-based education and training; increasing timely access to medication-assisted treatment; and increasing recovery support services.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

- **Prevention activities:** prescriber education, training and practice consultation; support of the statewide Opioid Assistance and Referral line; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screenings; trauma-informed prevention training and implementation; a statewide chronic pain self-management campaign; youth and family evidence-based programming; and community-based education.
- **Collaborating with local coalitions:** The local substance use coalitions helped the State develop the prevention toolkit used in Arizona. The STR/SOR Project Director and the State Opioid Coordinator interface with the coalitions regularly, including attending

local coalition meetings and the statewide Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona meeting. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family are administering STR/SOR dollars to support the coalition's implementation of the prevention toolkit, as well as additional trauma-informed prevention activities in their local communities.

- **Targeting special populations:** There are both broad statewide and community-based activities, as well as efforts targeting specific populations, including: veterans, service members and their families; older adults; individuals with physical disabilities; tribal populations; college students; parents/caregivers; youth; and providers and caseworkers working with infant-toddler and early childhood families.

Increasing access to treatment

- **Access to Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs):** New OTPs have been opened around the State and existing OTPs have expanded their hours to better accommodate the growing need. Arizona has also started six 24/7 Opioid Treatment on Demand Centers in identified "hotspots" in the State. Three of the centers are 24/7 OTPs, where individuals can walk-in for an intake, assessment, and induction on-site. Three of the centers are 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Units that partner with local OTPs for a warm handoff during operational hours
- **Access to MAT:**
 - Medication units have and continue to be opened in rural areas of the State; the units provide access to all 3 FDA-approved medications and partner with local behavioral health agencies to provide the psychosocial services.
 - Trainings to enlist new buprenorphine-waivered providers.
 - Practice consultation to support new providers (Project ECHO; the Opioid Assistance and Referral Line; the University of Arizona training and consultation platform for providers treating pregnant and parenting women).
 - Targeted projects with law enforcement and jails to connect justice-involved and the re-entry population to a MAT provider.
 - Targeted projects with emergency departments (ED) to conduct ED-Buprenorphine Initiation and coordinated discharge to MAT.
- **Pilot project with Phoenix Fire Department:** Created an auto dispatch enlisting peer support on the scene of opioid-related calls to enhance post-event connection to naloxone, treatment, and additional resources
- **Special populations:** Targets justice-involved individuals; pregnant and parenting women; tribal populations; veterans, service members and military families; and individuals with physical disabilities.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

STR/SOR funds have been used to provide naloxone to law enforcement, county jails and county public health departments. Funds have also been used to expand our existing community naloxone distribution project that provides naloxone training and distribution statewide. Through STR/SOR, the State agency has distributed 125,347 kits and has had **14,908 overdose reversals.**

Supporting recovery

- Peer and family support services
- Supportive housing, including targeted projects for pregnant and parenting women (PPW)
- Home-visiting programs for PPW and parents involved with the child welfare system
- Community health and recovery center
- Employment assistance
- Community re-entry projects

Collaborating with local entities

Local collaboration has occurred through community coalition meetings, town halls, taskforces, presentation forums, strategic planning sessions, stakeholder meetings and community panel discussions.

Additional positive outcomes (as of April 2019)

- 87,719 people received preventive services and 5 evidence-based programs were established
- 13,391 people served with MAT through STR/SOR
- 1,045 newly certified DATA-waivered practitioners since the beginning of STR
- 12,821 people received recovery support services through STR/SOR
- 19,338 individuals received treatment and recovery services through STR/SOR

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