

Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse and Disorders: The Impact of State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

Background on State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

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. The STR program was designed 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 support activities for opioid use disorder (OUD). Following STR, the SOR program similarly aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved medications for treatment of OUD and through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for OUD. In addition, the SOR program supports evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to address stimulant misuse and use disorders, including for cocaine and methamphetamine.

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, grantees received a total of \$1 billion through STR. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, states, territories, and jurisdictions received a total of \$4 billion in SOR grants.

Single State Agency (SSA): Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) received a total of \$15.6 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 – FY 2020, the state received a total of \$58.8 million in SOR funding.

Overview of Colorado's efforts to address opioid and stimulant misuse and disorders

Colorado's primary objectives have been to expand access to care and to reduce deaths due to opioid overdose. OBH, the state alcohol and drug agency, has taken a multifaceted approach to expanding access to care. Access expansion efforts include:

- Six mobile health units specializing in MAT to rural Colorado.
- Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waiver training for primary health providers along with practice implementation technical assistance on regularly scheduled forum calls for new prescribers.
- Managed care expanded networks (from 7 providers to 27) to contract with all Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) in the state to help uninsured citizens access MAT.
- Pilot program where two emergency departments (EDs) were buprenorphine induction sites.

- Five county jail day-of-release induction programs under STR, and now 16 county jails and growing offer MAT continuation, induction, and/or day-of-release services using SOR funding.
- MAT within the State’s Department of Corrections and the Division of Youth Services.
- Paying for residential care for high utilizers of the behavioral health system and homeless individuals.
- Supporting more than 10 outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) clinics that either have a high volume of people with histories of stimulant or opioid histories to implement the Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) or use evidence-based practice that has efficacy for people with stimulant use disorders.

Innovative service delivery models

- Expansion of Oxford Houses and MAT accessibility
- Expansion of MAT services in correctional facilities
- Increased MAT accessibility in OTPs
- Individual Placement and Support model of supported employment within OTPs
- Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT)

Building workforce capacity

- Expansion of the Colorado Hospital Association's Alternative to Opioid (ALTO) prescribing efforts to include training for family medicine, ED, orthopedic, and other specialty physician teams.
- Training facilitators to conduct Community Reinforcement and Family Training with Prevention (CRAFT-P), a model focused on supporting family members of individuals struggling with SUD and on how to encourage and motivate these loved ones into treatment and/or to maintain their recovery.

Collaborating with public and private entities

Colorado has engaged alternative court systems, local sheriff and jail personnel, law enforcement, mental health centers, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in training and implementation efforts to provide MAT and/or to connect individuals with OUD who are in their purview with MAT and other treatment services.

Colorado has created the Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention at the University of Colorado that helps coordinate opioid response work. Colorado’s OBH partners with the Consortium to help educate about service availability through SOR.

Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

Education and public awareness

Some examples of prevention initiatives supported by STR and SOR are:

- Two ED induction sites that have incorporated Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as a part of their treatment protocol.
- Creation of “Lift the Label,” LiftTheLabel.org, a public awareness campaign that strives to remove damaging labels and stigmas that prevent those with opioid addiction from seeking effective

treatment. The campaign has more than 262 million impressions. New educational curricula for medical professionals, mental health professionals, and law enforcement that educate professionals on how MAT works in the brain, the benefits of MAT, and how to reduce stigma in their line of work, are available at LiftTheLabel.org/Training.

- Supporting tribes with implementing prevention education, education on MAT for clinics, and providing mental health and peer services for community members.
- Providing CRAFT groups through trained facilitators at over 25 locations throughout the state to support families of someone with an SUD. All CRAFT facilitators are also trained on naloxone and provide naloxone to family members who participate in groups.
- Funding two large urban school districts with large Native American populations to provide prevention services using Native H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People Endure) model.

OBH works closely with the state coalition, the **Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**, and members of the OBH opioid team sit on each of the Consortium's 10 work groups. Additionally, OBH funds positions at the Consortium, including the strategic planning coordinator for OBH grants, and four community liaisons who work to build and mature local coalitions around the state.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

OBH has distributed 45,000 naloxone kits to high-risk individuals, harm reduction and treatment agencies, and law enforcement. Over 2,000 overdose reversals have been reported to date.

Increasing access to treatment

Colorado's OBH is using STR/SOR funds to expand access to treatment in a variety of ways:

- Paying for MAT in OTPs for the working poor (uninsured individuals under 300% of the federal poverty line who do not qualify for Medicaid), and Colorado has expanded contracts with OTPs to now include all OTPs in the state.
- Increasing the number of DATA 2000-waivered physicians and advanced practice providers.
- Expanding jail-based MAT.
- Using hospitals and EDs as access points for MAT.
- Providing residential care for homeless and high system utilizers to facilitate medication induction.
- Expanding the OpiRescue smartphone app, available from OpiSafe.com, to include a MAT treatment locator.
- Creating six mobile treatment units to serve rural populations impacted by OUD.
- Hiring a certified CRAFT trainer who trains professionals on the evidence-based family model for families of individuals with OUD. This trainer has trained 282 new group facilitators to support skill building. CRAFT trains prevention specialists, peer recovery coaches, case managers, and other clinical staff in building skills to support loved ones' engagement in treatment. Those providers have delivered the group facilitators to 756 individuals to date.

Supporting long-term recovery

OBH has supported recovery through the grant funds in many ways:

- Launched the Recovery Cards Project, an initiative of the Lift the Label opioid anti-stigma campaign, in an effort to bring hope to Coloradans struggling with addiction and their families.

This new line of greeting cards is available free of charge as a celebration of recovery, the efforts of those working to achieve it, and the people who support and encourage them every day. The 34 cards were created by a diverse group of 10 artists, 4 of whom are in recovery. Five cards are available in Spanish. The messages in the cards are geared toward those struggling with or in recovery from addiction, loved ones, and those mourning the loss of a loved one from addiction. Nearly 4,400 orders for cards have been placed, and more than 14,600 cards have been mailed out to all 50 states. Cards are available at RecoveryCardsProject.com.

- Sponsored a research report on recovery support services, including a formal needs assessment and strategic planning process. This report informed recovery bills being considered in the 2020 legislative session.
- Providing support for recovery events to engage these important partners in our work moving forward, such as the annual Recovery Rally in Denver where thousands of Coloradans gather to celebrate recovery.
- Supporting the expansion of Oxford House peer-run recovery residences. All Oxford Houses operating in Colorado are MAT-friendly.;
- Funding three pilot projects to implement the Individual Placement and Support model of supported employment within OTPs in Colorado.
- Hiring and deploying peer navigators. These are individuals with lived experience in recovery who assist others in accessing treatment, recovery support services, and other emergency needs (such as emergency food and housing supplied by other state entities). OBH expanded peer navigators from 7.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) (STR) to 17 FTE (SOR).
- Paying first month's rent at any Oxford House or Colorado Association of Recovery Residences certified recovery residence for those with opioid or stimulant use histories
- Investing in Recovery Community Organizations throughout Colorado to provide peer-delivered recovery support services and increase community recovery capital.

Serving special populations

- Jail- and prison-based inductions are focused on those individuals entering or leaving incarceration.
- Residential services target high utilizers and persons experiencing homelessness.
- Colorado has contracted with federally recognized tribes, and, with SOR, OBH is working with urban Native populations, both for treatment and prevention.

Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

The impact of STR/SOR on access to treatment

- With STR/SOR funding, over 3,000 uninsured and underinsured individuals have been provided MAT.
- 98 individuals have been inducted in the ED through the ED pilot program. Multiple large hospital systems have since begun MAT inductions.
- 249 high system utilizers and homeless individuals have been supported with residential care during their induction.
- 489 individuals have been inducted onto MAT while incarcerated or on day of release.
- More than 3,250 individuals have been assisted by Colorado's crisis hotline to find treatment services in the community.

- Specialized peer navigators have assisted over 1,500 individuals to get into MAT and other treatment services.
- 1,265 physicians and advanced practice providers have been trained to provide MAT.

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. 1H79TI083343 from SAMHSA. The information contained in this Brief was provided and verified by the state/jurisdiction. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.