

# 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 (RSS) 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): Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) received a total of \$4 million in STR funds. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the states received a total of \$17.8 million in SOR funds.

## Overview of Idaho’s efforts to address opioid and stimulant misuse and disorders

Idaho has used STR/SOR funds to build the foundation of Idaho’s OUD and MAT provider network. Idaho has been able to support peer-based RSS within Idaho’s communities through initiatives such as providing recovery coach services in emergency departments, as well as jails and/or prisons. Additionally, Idaho has used SOR funds to launch and expand Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs throughout the state. Idaho has also invested in prescriber education, residential treatment, workforce development, and naloxone distribution to first responders across the state.

### Innovative service delivery models

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs
- Targeted reentry services for women leaving the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center
- Support of community-based RSS

- Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) expansion
- Emergency department warm handoff programs
- HOPE Project inpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program
- Naloxone distribution

## Building workforce capacity

In 2019 and 2020, the state utilized the Opioid Response Network (ORN) to provide expert panels on MAT in five locations in Idaho. The panel sessions were open to all providers to attend to enhance their knowledge of MAT and to engage in discussion with subject matter experts.

A subgrant with the University of Idaho Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) was initiated in May 2020. ECHO is an educational resource providing trainings on prevention, assessment, and treatment of OUD and stimulant use disorders designed for health care professionals in Idaho and presented in a live video format to better reach providers in remote and rural areas. ECHO has provided 40 educational sessions from May 2020 to April 2021. These sessions have been widely attended by individuals from all sectors of the workforce, from peer recovery coaches to medical doctors specializing in addiction.

SOR funds have provided the opportunity for a total of seven recovery coach trainings to occur across the state at low cost to attendees; a total of 98 Idahoans have been trained as a recovery coach.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

The state is working with emergency departments and crisis centers to implement immediate intervention and peer-supported warm handoff programs.

DHW collaborated with the public health system in prescriber education efforts. This was done in part by working with the Office of Drug Policy's Opioid Misuse and Overdose 5-year Strategic Plan. Through involvement with targeted workgroups, DHW has partnered with agencies such as the Board of Pharmacy, Idaho Medical Association, Public Health Districts, Idaho Board of Medicine, and others to enhance prescriber, patient, and public education.

Idaho currently has two LEAD programs within the state and is working with local police departments to implement additional LEAD programs across the state.

DHW initially collaborated with the Office of Drug Policy in the distribution of naloxone kits across the state. Since March 2020, DHW has partnered with the DHW Division of Public Health and the Idaho Harm Reduction Project to streamline the request process and ensure that Narcan kits continue to be distributed to agencies and entities across Idaho.

The DHW Division of Behavioral Health has partnered with Idaho's Department of Correction to implement targeted reentry programs for women released back to their communities.

DHW continues to provide funding opportunities to support Idaho's five federally recognized tribes' efforts to address the opioid epidemic in their communities.

DHW has partnered with the University of Idaho to initiate and support Project ECHO.

DHW has partnered with the Walker Center, a residential treatment provider, to implement and support the HOPE Project - Helping Other People Engage in the Healing Process.

## Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

### Education and public awareness

Prevention work has been focused primarily on prescriber education, setting up drug drop boxes, and awareness campaigns.

- The state launched a hospital-based educational campaign with five hospitals.
- In partnership with the Office of Drug Policy, DHW's Division of Public Health, and the Board of Pharmacy, STR funding was used to provide individual prescriber reports, offering a comparison to peers' prescribing habits by utilizing prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) data.
- STR funding established a drug drop box program in pharmacies statewide.
- Education has been provided to prescribers on the use of the PDMP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) opioid prescribing guidelines.
- Idaho has been able to launch awareness campaigns focused on opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose.
- DHW has partnered with the Idaho Regional Alcohol Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) Center, which is a clearinghouse of print, video, and online SUD resources. RADAR distributes resources to all agencies and entities who request them, at no charge.
- SOR funding has been utilized to customize and purchase American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Opioid Patient Resource Guide booklets, for distribution to clinics, MAT providers, recovery centers, and other agencies to support families and friends of individuals with OUD. The booklets are available in print and PDF to order through RADAR.

### Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Idaho increased the use of naloxone by providing kits to first responders, emergency personnel, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and community members who encounter people at high risk of overdose.

- 2,184 naloxone kits (2 doses per kit) were distributed through year 1 of STR, and 36 overdose reversals were reported.
- 3,518 naloxone kits (2 doses per kit) were distributed through SOR, and 125 reversals were reported.

### Increasing access to treatment

#### Emergency Department Warm Handoff Programs

In April 2021, SOR funds were awarded to an SUD treatment facility for the purpose of an emergency department warm handoff program service in two emergency departments in the Boise metropolitan area. The treatment facility is in the process of adding a third emergency department to its program. It is anticipated that the program will go live in June 2021.

#### OTP/Office-Based Opioid Treatment Expansion

A funding opportunity for OTP and office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) expansion was announced in December 2020, and two OTP expansion subgrants were awarded. The funding opportunity aimed to make access to MAT services available to individuals outside of the Boise metropolitan area. Prior to

this funding being available, OTP services were only available in the Treasure Valley (Boise and surrounding area). Currently the subgrantees are preparing to launch locations in three areas of Idaho that will substantially increase MAT availability to other areas of the state.

### **HOPE Project**

DBH has partnered with the Walker Center residential treatment facility to implement the HOPE Project – Helping Other People Engage in the Healing Process. HOPE is a 60-day residential treatment program, which includes a social worker who works to combine and use community resources to create a model of longitudinal addiction treatment for each patient involved in the program. The social worker navigates the process of entrance into residential treatment and any hospitalizations needed, followed by coordination of services upon completion of residential stay, including extended stays or a return to the Walker Center for a “tune-up” as needed to maintain recovery or prevent relapse. To further improve the likelihood of success of HOPE participants, the social worker provides case management services to each patient for 1 year. To date, 35 Idahoans have engaged in this program via SOR funding.

### **Medication-Assisted Treatment**

STR funding was used to add MAT to the array of treatment services available to those with OUD. Through SOR, funding assistance for eligible Idahoans is now available for all FDA-approved MAT medications.

## **Supporting long-term recovery**

### **Early Engagement**

STR/SOR funds provided early engagement services to individuals with an OUD discharging from hospitals, crisis centers, jails, and prisons.

### **Recovery Support Services**

In early 2021, a funding opportunity for RSS was announced, and 13 subgrants were awarded to centers and agencies, thus providing RSS in all seven regions of Idaho. To date, three awardees have commenced providing services, and the remaining subgrants are anticipated to begin serving individuals by June 2021.

### **Recovery Centers**

Thirteen subgrants for RSS have been awarded to centers and agencies across the state who will provide services to individuals ranging from recovery-centered meetings, recovery coaches, life enrichment and life skills programs and counseling, as well as exercise-based and outdoor activity focused programming.

## **Serving special populations**

The Idaho Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs has been awarded a subgrant through the SOR grant in October 2020 for After School Prevention Programming in six Idaho counties. The Boys and Girls Clubs serve youth ages 5–18 through three age-specific curriculum programs as well as providing SUD counseling to youth and their families.

Idaho’s five federally recognized tribes have taken advantage of SOR funding opportunities to address the opioid epidemic from multiple fronts including implementing MAT programs, recovery coach services, provider and first responder trainings, and launching opioid awareness campaigns.

In March 2020, in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Correction, a reentry program was introduced at the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center specifically for women who have a history of opioid misuse and/or a diagnosis of OUD. Participants in this program work with internal case managers and community-based recovery coaches prior to release to ensure they have a comprehensive reentry plan, including a warm handoff into community services and treatment, including MAT, upon release.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- 5,205 reports were given to prescribers on their opioid prescribing patterns.
- 2,184 naloxone kits were distributed through year 1 of STR, and 36 overdose reversals were reported (reporting reversals was not a requirement of receiving the naloxone).
- 3,518 naloxone kits (2 doses per kit) were distributed through SOR, and 125 reversals were reported (reporting reversals was not a requirement of receiving the naloxone).
- Early engagement services were provided to 223 individuals discharged from hospitals or crisis centers and 372 individuals released from jail or prison.
- Idaho now has 521 Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA)– waived prescribers, which is an increase of 120 since 2018.
- Almost 3,000 individuals have received RSS through Idaho’s nine recovery centers.
- 566 individuals have participated in sober recreation activities.
- 37 individuals participated in the original LEAD pilot.
- 2,840 Idahoans have accessed treatment services through STR and SOR grants. Of these 2,840 individuals 1,424 accessed 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.