

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): Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) received a total of \$21.8 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$74.5 million in SOR funding.

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

The State of Indiana has used STR and SOR funds to address the opioid crisis by enhancing the addiction treatment infrastructure. STR funds were used to add 197 residential beds in 2018 and to partner with a software platform to refer patients to open residential treatment beds. STR funds were also used to further access to residential treatment by setting up a voucher system that allows select facilities to offer and be reimbursed for OUD treatment for people without Medicaid or other third-party payer source. Under more recent SOR funding, Indiana has extended eligibility of all grant services to people experiencing stimulant use disorder. Another major initiative has focused on education and stigma reduction efforts. Massive resources have been used to build a grassroots campaign to share the facts about OUD and MAT among the general public in Indiana. Progress on combating the opioid crisis is dependent on all parties and stakeholders overcoming stigma and treating this as a public health issue. This includes financial support for the Indiana State Museum’s exhibit and classroom curriculum, “FIX:

Heartbreak and Hope Inside Our Opioid Crisis.” The exhibit is an interactive and educational experience for Hoosiers of all ages to learn the science of OUD and the effect it has on their communities. STR/SOR funds have been used to increase the size and clinical capacity of Indiana’s addiction workforce by paying for training and certifications for Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA)–waived prescribers and for recovery coaches, and even assisting students in internships for addiction professions.

Innovative service delivery models

- Sequential Intercept Model
- Peer recovery coaching in emergency departments (EDs)
- Evidence-based prevention programs
- Peer recovery coaching in corrections
- Expansion of MAT services in EDs and county jails
- Expansion of Oxford Houses
- Star Behavioral Health trainings
- Mobile response teams
- Regional Peer Recovery Support Hubs
- Alternative Peer Groups
- Project Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)

Building workforce capacity

STR funds were used for trainings on Trauma-Informed, Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (TI-ROSC) for over 450 local stakeholders. Funds were also used to create a toolkit for local communities to build their own TI-ROSC. SOR funds were used help at least 15 communities in Indiana develop their TI-ROSC, with additional technical assistance from the National Council for Behavioral Health.

SOR funds have been used to offer stipends to over 200 college students completing an internship at local community mental health centers, focusing on addiction treatment, in 41 counties across Indiana. SOR funds also paid for over 100 addiction professionals’ training and credentialing fees.

Collaborating with public and private entities

- The FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addiction contracted with the Indiana Department of Education to award 15 school systems with funds to implement evidence-based prevention programs using STR funds.
- STR funds supported peer recovery coaches engaging with over 1,758 patients in EDs, encouraging and guiding them toward treatment.
- STR funds supported 7 quick response teams across Indiana, utilizing local resources to address opioid overdoses in local communities. Over 100 people were encountered through May 2019.
- SOR funds are being used to fund Sequential Intercept Models in each of the 92 counties across Indiana. As of October 2020, nearly 75% of Indiana counties were implementing one of the six Sequential Intercept Models utilizing SOR funding.
- STR funds were used to implement two mobile response teams in southeast Indiana. These teams formed partnerships with local police departments and governments to connect their

referrals to appropriate care. As of October 2019, 755 patients were served by these two mobile response teams.

- SOR funds were used to implement seven Mobile Integrated Response Systems (MIRS) across 24 counties in Indiana. These MIRS are comprised of peer recovery coaches in EDs and in the community, hospitals with DATA-waivered prescribers, wraparound service providers, a TI-ROSC in the community, and a well-trained mobile response team. As of April 2020, these MIRS have served over 2,800 people in their communities, delivering a wide range of services, including recovery support, referral to treatment, wraparound services, and naloxone distribution.
- SOR funds are being used to house persons in recovery at certified recovery residences in Indiana. Funds are used for room, board, and per diem. As of April 2021, 11 recovery residences are utilizing funds to serve 230 persons in recovery.
- SOR funds are being used to provide MAT to over a dozen community mental health centers in Indiana. These funds will pay for MAT for those who cannot afford it. As of April 2021, over 688 patients have received MAT services using SOR funds.

Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

Education and public awareness

- STR funds were used to fund school-based prevention efforts, including Botvin LifeSkills Training
- Too Good for Drugs, Project Alert, and others. Over 15 school systems across rural Indiana are implementing these programs to further prevention efforts in the state. Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) trainings are also being implemented on college campuses across the state to address student needs.
- SOR funds are being used for marketing the state’s educational and stigma reduction campaign. This includes creating digital, television, radio, and other media depicting real stories of persons with opioid and SUDs, and telling their stories of recovery. One such video was recently nominated for a regional Emmy Award.
- STR and SOR funds were used to support the development and implementation of an interactive museum exhibit at the Indiana State Museum. “FIX: Heartbreak and Hope Inside Our Opioid Crisis” is an interactive journey for visitors of all ages to learn the science of OUD, the impact the disease has on their communities, and the hope that comes with recovery. Funds are continuing to be used to support persons in recovery to interact with the exhibit, and it will be retooled as a virtual classroom experience and curriculum for school-age children.
- STR and SOR funds have been used to offer education and training to Indiana’s business community regarding employing a workforce in recovery. This training, completed in partnership with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, focused on the science of addiction, legal protections for workers in recovery, evidence-based treatment, and naloxone deployment.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

STR funds were used to purchase over \$1,300,000 worth of naloxone kits by the Indiana Department of Health, Indiana State Police, Indiana State Excise Police, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources between May 2017 and April 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic escalated in March 2020, the need for

naloxone increased exponentially. SOR funds were used to purchase naloxone for Opioid Treatment Program patients, community recovery organizations, and other laypersons during the peak of the pandemic. As of May 2021, this has amounted to over \$3,200,000. This has included naloxone kits, community naloxone boxes (“NaloxBoxes”), and medication storage boxes. An additional \$1,500,000 of SOR funding has been allocated for the Indiana Department of Health to distribute naloxone to local health departments.

Increasing access to treatment

- Indiana has connected the OpenBeds platform, a behavioral health capacity management and referral technology solution, to Indiana 211 to connect and refer people who call 211 to MAT. Since March 2018, there have been over 8,100 referrals for treatment services through this initiative.
- STR funds were used to support DATA waiver trainings, resulting in an 8.4% increase in Indiana buprenorphine prescribers.
- STR and SOR funds are being used to offer trainings on evidence-based practices, such as Matrix Model, Motivational Interviewing, and American Society of Addiction Medicine Criteria, for Indiana providers at no cost.
- SOR funds are being used to train mental health and addiction counselors in STAR Behavioral Health, ensuring that veterans returning home receive evidence-based care for mental health and addiction disorders in their communities.
- The state implemented Project ECHO at Indiana University for OUD with cohorts for prescribers, mental health and substance use, community health workers, OUD in pregnancy, OUD in early childhood development, medical comorbidities, adolescents, and jail-based treatment.

Supporting long-term recovery

- Using STR funds, 24 different hospitals have implemented peer recovery coaches in their EDs. As of May 2020, 2700 patients were engaged by a peer recovery coach in the ED. Preliminary reports show that 59% of people who were engaged by a peer recovery coach engaged in some type of treatment following their interaction.
- SOR funds have been used to open 54 of a projected 84 Oxford House recovery residences across Indiana, creating an additional 410 beds.
- SOR funds were used to establish the Landlord Mitigation Reserve Program in partnership with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. This program provides assurances and coverage for landlords who lease to persons in long-term recovery. The fund allows the landlord to recoup up to 2 months in unpaid rent, lease-break fees, and up to \$2,500 in damages. These assurances allow people in long-term recovery the ability to find housing by mitigating any concerns a landlord may have in leasing a housing unit.
- SOR funds were used to create a user-friendly “How To” manual for opening a sustainable recovery residence in the state of Indiana. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Mental Health and Addiction hosted four trainings to educate community stakeholders. This manual is housed on the state website for public use.

Serving special populations

- STR funds were used to pay for residential OUD treatment with MAT for those who are not eligible for Medicaid and do not have third-party insurance.
- SOR funds are being used to increase access to MAT for county jail inmates, including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. Similar efforts are being used to increase access to MAT at local community mental health centers for those cannot afford treatment.
- SOR funds are being used to develop a comprehensive day treatment center for women with small children. The funds will be used in cooperation with other philanthropic and state resources to establish a facility that houses evidence-based treatment for new mothers, quality childcare for their children, comprehensive interventions for childhood development, medical services, MAT for OUD, and other wraparound services.

Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- As of January 2020, over 11,500 students and staff have been trained in school-based prevention programs paid for by the STR/SOR grants. More are expected by April 2020.
- As of December 31, 2019, there have been 219 total (unduplicated) participants in OUD ECHO across all cohorts.
- As of January 2020, STR/SOR funds were used to incentivize 130 prescribers to receive the DATA waiver.
- As of February 3, 2020, 493 patients have received residential treatment, with MAT, utilizing STR/SOR funds.
- As of March 30, 2021, 688 patients have accessed evidence-based treatment with medication for OUD, utilizing SOR funds.
- As of March 30, 2021, 230 participants have utilized SOR funds to pay for room and board at certified recovery residences in Indiana.

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