

# Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse and Use 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): Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) received a total of \$52 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, Ohio received a total of \$236.2 million in SOR funding.

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

The Ohio SOR Project is intended to:

1. Expand prevention efforts related to naloxone distribution, provide training across systems for professionals to improve system responses to the opioid crisis, and deploy targeted awareness messaging for communities;
2. Expand access to MAT and a clinical workforce with the expertise to provide MAT and psychosocial treatment to individuals with an OUD; and
3. Expand the use of certified peer supporters and access to recovery housing, in particular recovery housing for families, and development of employment opportunities for persons in recovery from opioid addiction.

In achieving these aims, programs and services are building upon the work already established by Ohio's STR initiative.

- **Innovative service delivery models**

- **Ohio START:** The Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) Program is an evidence-informed children services'-led intervention model that helps public children's services agencies bring together caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder (SUD).
- **MOMS (Maternal Opiate Medical Supports) collaborative:** The MOMS program is based on the **Maternity Care Home model, which is a team-based healthcare delivery model that emphasizes care coordination and wrap-around services engaging expecting mothers in a combination of counseling, MAT, and case management.**
- **Case managers for clinical care coordination in the emergency department:** Patients with an overdose or OUD receive clinical care coordination and are offered MAT induction with buprenorphine along with long-term follow-up in the community.
- **Innovation grants:** Community providers including recovery support providers, minority-focused providers, and others received funding to support the integration of web applications, medical devices, telehealth, and other technology to coordinate care through an integrated approach to multisystem needs. Some examples of the many innovation grants are below:
  - A patient-centered application that connects patients directly to service providers.
  - Recovery supports for residential clients through a web application.
  - A text alert system and corresponding mobile application that provides information about overdose surges to providers.
  - A data site that is being created to guide decisions of where services for individuals with SUD are most needed. The site will also provide information about resources that can be easily searched by county, city, or ZIP Code.
- **Prescriber initiatives:** Twenty-five Drug Addiction Treatment Act 2000 (DATA 2000) waiver trainings were offered that included referral to local treatment options training. Ten additional American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria trainings were offered to assist medical providers in referring to appropriate levels of care. Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes) programs were offered for prescribers in mentorship and continuing education.
- **All-Ohio Medical School Opioid Use Disorder Collaborative Curriculum:** Through this program, a curriculum covering pain management, DATA 2000 waiver training, and diagnosis and treatment of addiction was developed for medical colleges in Ohio. The curriculum was placed on a platform that is accessible by medical school teaching staff and includes appropriate testing materials. The curriculum is being adopted by physician assistant and nurse practitioner programs.
- **Ohio Opiate Project ECHO:** This mentorship ECHO provides weekly teleconferences on diverse topics led by an experienced practitioner while a continuing education ECHO provides ongoing topical learning through didactic presentation and case reviews with a panel of experts.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

SOR funding is channeled through the local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) boards, a local government entity tasked with coordinating mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery in the local community. Funding for local treatment and recovery supports, with a focus on access to all forms of MAT, is currently working through the local ADAMHS boards to target locally identified needs within the communities.

As part of Ohio's SOR grant program, OhioMHAS sought applicants for FY2020 Ohio Opiate Response Continuum Grant for Organizations Serving Members of the African American, Hispanic/Latino American, and Other Minority Communities ([MHA-FY20-21-OOR-CountyHealth-12](#)). Approximately \$15 million was available for programs and projects to increase access to treatment and recovery supports for African American, Hispanic/Latino American, and other minority community members with a primary or secondary diagnosis of OUD or those with a documented history of opiate-related overdose.

Through the expanded SOR grant program, an addition \$51 million was released for communities in need through the ADAMHS boards across Ohio.

## Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

- **Education and public awareness**
- **Public health prevention campaign:** Partnership with Denial, Ohio, and the prevention materials developed through Start Talking and TakeChargeOhio for broad distribution.
  - The prevention campaign is targeted toward older adults for drug disposal and toward parents for communication with their children.
  - Data collected for targeted social media prevention campaign indicate that just over 8 million people were reached and directed to educational materials.
- **Prevention evidence-based practices expansion:** Through the Ohio SOR 2.0 project, communities are expanding access to prevention practices, including the Botvin *LifeSkills* training, the Triple P program, and public education campaigns targeted to local communities most at risk.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

In partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, 42 additional Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) sites are now operating across the state. Additional training will be provided to communities with a focus on first responders, peer supporters, and family members. So far, 16,722 known overdose reversals have been reported through the program. In addition, funding with the Ohio Department of Health includes fentanyl and public awareness campaigns, as well as the use of social marketing campaigns to increase awareness of naloxone and increase access to naloxone.

In May, OhioMHAS rapidly deployed 60,000 doses of naloxone to specific ZIP Codes in 23 counties that represent communities experiencing the highest morbidity and mortality rates from overdose deaths. OhioMHAS worked closely with the Ohio Department of Health and the local ADAMHS boards to determine an equitable distribution plan that ensures this lifesaving drug reaches minority populations who are dying from overdose death at a higher rate than white Ohioans. OhioMHAS also allocated 9,000 doses to Harm Reduction Ohio to be distributed statewide according to the needs experienced by their local grassroots partners.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 30 into law, designating August 31m 2020 as Ohio Overdose Awareness Day, to raise public awareness of the opioid epidemic and to remember the lives lost to addiction. Currently, Ohio has dedicated over \$6.4 million to the effort, resulting in the shipment of nearly 299,000 naloxone doses to date.

In response to an increase in opioid overdoses, Ohio's hotel industry partnered with OhioMHAS, RecoveryOhio, and the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board to launch an awareness and informational campaign aimed at getting as many hotels as possible to keep a supply of Narcan (naloxone) nasal spray on site, and to train hotel staff on its safe use in resuscitating individuals. The work started in Trumbull County is expected to dramatically increase the number of naloxone units carried by hotel staff and NaloxBoxes on hotel premises through the coming year.

Contingency Management (CM) programs are being supported through SOR funding. This funding requires that each individual reward not exceed \$15 per session, with a per-year and per-person limit of \$75. The following are examples of CM programs in Ohio:

- In Ashtabula County, CM efforts include motivational incentives and tangible rewards to encourage sobriety and behaviors that support healthy living.
- A recovery center CM and MAT program in Lake and Geauga counties rewards individuals for attending groups, being on time, attending 12-step meetings, or achieving an established weekly goal.
- Lorain UMADAOP (Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program) uses the fishbowl method, with small, medium, and large pulls used with precontemplation, residential, day treatment, and post-treatment groups. Individuals receive the opportunity to withdraw an item from the fishbowl for meeting treatment goals.
- Oriana House's CM program is used for individuals who complete the recommended level of treatment and continue compliance with their treatment program.

## Increasing access to treatment

- **Expanding telemedicine:** Telemedicine access in emergency departments and in jail settings has been expanded through partnership with the Supreme Court of Ohio. All jails are aware of the program, and it consistently expands to serve additional populations in need each year.
- **Local system supports:** SOR is providing funding to local ADAMHS boards that oversee the local treatment system to enhance access to all forms of MAT and support recovery housing and peer supporters.
- **Linkage to other services include:**
  - Peer support services are used to introduce a smoking cessation program, provide access to services, and host peer support specialist training to minority populations.
  - A fatherhood program serves men and children, providing access to recovery housing, workforce development, and certified peer supporters.
  - One Hispanic organization focuses on providing ASAM level 3.5 residential treatment to those with OUD. In addition, the project includes education, awareness, and outreach programs.

## Supporting long-term recovery

- Recovery housing for families is a focus of funding, ensuring access to recovery housing for families that allow all forms of MAT in addition to increasing the number of family peer

supporters available to families involved with the child welfare and family court systems. Ohio currently has 46 additional housing projects underway.

- Peer support services in special settings such as child welfare and the emergency department are starting up. In addition to the local system funding there are 35 projects serving special populations.
- Vocational education provides needed support for persons in recovery and is supported through partnerships at the local level with treatment providers and vocational and employment specialists. In addition, state-level partnership between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the OhioMHAS ensures that treatment and recovery supports alongside employment and vocational resources are available to communities in need.

## Serving special populations

**Ohio START:** Funding has allowed expansion of the Ohio START model to 30 counties to increase access to MAT and psychosocial support for families involved in the child welfare system.

**MOMS program:** The number of Opioid Treatment Programs and medical settings that provide the MOMS model for pregnant and parenting women has increased. This program includes increased access to MAT and all wraparound services.

**Minority communities and high-risk families programs:** 10 ADAMHS boards were awarded over \$14 million to support locally developed programs to increase engagement, treatment access, and recovery support services for African American and Hispanic and Latino communities along with multisystem and high-risk families.

**Minority organizations and UMADAOP:** 23 minority-focused community behavioral health and recovery services provider organizations received \$15 million to support a full continuum of care supporting individuals in underserved communities. Each UMADAOP in also received funds to expand their services for persons with OUD and to increase community awareness of available treatment and recovery supports.

**Ohio's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs):** In FY 2021–2022, HBCUs received \$100,000 in SOR funds, with \$50,000 currently targeted to a collaborative effort with Central State University to provide improved quantity and quality of research data. The State believes that the universities' cultural familiarity with African American communities will impact the quality of information received. The data collection will enhance the State's ability to respond to the needs and support minorities in the communities with OUD, stimulant use disorder, and other co-occurring SUDs in an informed manner.

**TakeChargeOhio:** OhioMHAS executed a multimillion-dollar media buy in 2020 to promote the TakeChargeOhio resources with a particular emphasis on engaging minority communities.

**Promoting greater access to harm reduction (naloxone, fentanyl test strips) and expanded access to MAT:** OhioMHAS is working with the Ohio Department of Health to make sure Ohio's highest-need communities have naloxone and the additional harm reduction supplies they desperately need in a way that provides access to all Ohioans. This May, 2021 OhioMHAS rapidly deployed approximately 60,000 doses of naloxone to ZIP Codes in 23 highest-risk counties, and the planning included equitable distribution strategies to ensure that this lifesaving drug reaches minority populations. Ahead of Ohio Overdose Awareness Day (August 31), OhioMHAS partnered with the Ohio Department of Health to distribute more than 120,000 additional doses of naloxone to communities throughout Ohio.

Ohio is expanding culturally specific SUD treatment programs that include MAT services. ADAMHS boards in collaboration with local community providers designed programs to increase the number of

African Americans receiving MAT and provide outreach, referral, treatment, and engagement strategies for individuals who have had a history of opioid overdose and/or have been assessed as having an opioid dependency diagnosis and need MAT services. Over 1,000 individual families of color have been served.

**Faith-Based Organizations:** Fifty-nine faith-based organizations are receiving funding to engage in stigma reduction. Ohio awarded \$4.9 million to 36 faith-based and minority organizations through the Use of Community Partners Program. The Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives partnered with OhioMHAS to award \$3 million in grants in 2020 to minority-serving organizations and faith-based providers.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- The Ohio STR project provided services to 43,524 persons during the project period. In addition, the project supported the expansion of prevention services to more than 150,000 students and provided training to more than 500 providers.
- The Ohio SOR 1 project provided services to 43,524 persons during the project period so far and will continue to provide prescriber education, workforce development, and targeted outreach to minority communities.
- The Ohio SOR 2 project has provided treatment and recovery support services to 5,701 persons during the first year of the project and provided prevention services and education to 57,275 persons. The project will continue to increase the number of persons served through the planned second year of the project.
- Telemedicine in incarcerated settings is being offered in 12 jails, and education for all jails has been made available.
- Enhancements to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (the name of Ohio’s prescription drug monitoring program) are providing better data related to problematic prescribers and strengthening prescriber training.

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