

# 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): Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) received a total of \$13 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$34.9 million in SOR funding.

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

Oregon’s focus on MAT expansion was and continues to be a primary goal of these grants. Overall, Oregon’s focus and efforts through the STR and SOR resources have been on the following:

1. Increase access to substance use disorder treatment (SUD), primarily MAT
2. Increase access to SUD recovery support services
3. Provide upstream SUD prevention and early intervention
4. Increase access to harm reduction and overdose prevention
5. Provide SUD workforce development

## Innovative service delivery models

- MAT expansion
- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes)

- Peer Recovery Initiated in Medical Establishment + HCV testing and linkage to care (PRIME+)
- Nurture Oregon
- Harmony Academy: Oregon’s first recovery high school
- Culturally specific Recovery Community Centers

## Building workforce capacity

### Project ECHO

Oregon has focused on education for medical professions through Project ECHO, a tele-health training and support program targeting Oregon providers in the use of medications and other evidence-based treatments for the prevention and treatment of OUD and other SUDs.

### Education Training Cohort in Rural Areas

An Education Training Cohort was started in 2020 to provide the free education hours for individuals serving rural and frontier communities to obtain their Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor I certification. Over 80 individuals signed up for the opportunity, with 40 in the process of completing the certification.

### Training for SUD Peers and Counselors

The Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) has been providing free training opportunities for SUD peers and counselors in a number of topics, including free mentor certification, sexual boundaries, stimulant use, clinical supervision, and MAT. MHACBO also has provided support for Oregon’s Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs,) helping to enhance or create services including support for culturally specific RCOs.

### Save Lives Oregon

Save Lives Oregon has partnered with seven technical assistance organizations to grow the harm reduction movement into every county in Oregon, ensuring that they reach the most vulnerable populations with lifesaving supplies and support.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

OHA has collaborated with county behavioral health providers, SUD treatment providers, the Department of Corrections, Oregon Health and Science University, and the Rural Provider Network in Oregon to identify high-need regions for the use of STR and SOR funds. In addition, in-state collaboration is ongoing through various task forces, including the Governor’s Opioid Epidemic Task Force, the Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Task Force, and the Oregon Pain Management Commission. OHA is also working closely with Oregon Tribes to implement services among populations experiencing disparities. OHA worked with private and nonprofit organizations to expand MAT, focusing on expanding services in areas of need and implementing needs assessments and strategic initiatives.

Oregon’s Drug Overdose Initiative funds counties or regions with a high burden of opioid overdose deaths and hospitalizations. Funds are allocated to Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) to complement other overdose prevention initiatives and leverage funding throughout the county/region to reduce overdose deaths and hospitalizations. There are currently 11 funded Drug Overdose Initiative regions covering 25 of the 36 Oregon counties.

LPHAs are expected to collaborate with multidisciplinary stakeholders and address community challenges related to drug overdoses using the following strategies:

- Establishing linkages to care,
- Supporting providers and health systems,
- Partnering with public safety and first responders,
- Empowering individuals to make safer choices, and
- Implementing Prevention Innovation Projects

Required work consists of:

- Engaging a regional multisector stakeholder group;
- Consulting with stakeholders to develop/expand overdose emergency response protocols;
- Developing and implementing prevention project(s) that address one or more of the above strategies;
- Assessing naloxone accessibility for individuals and working with harm reduction partners; and
- Reviewing, coordinating, and disseminating local data to promote public awareness.

## Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

Oregon is using funding to implement prevention strategies to reduce the burden of opioid and other drugs through the cross-agency OHA Opioid Initiative, which aims to reduce deaths, nonfatal overdoses, and harms to Oregonians from prescription opioids. The strategic framework encompasses four areas:

- Improving access to non-opioid pain treatment,
- Supporting MAT and naloxone access for people taking opioids,
- Implementing opioid prescribing guidelines, and
- Using data to inform and evaluate policies.

The initiative aligns efforts across the OHA organizational structure, programmatic activities, and funding streams.

Community-level strategies implemented for the OHA Opioid Initiative include:

### Collaboration

Collaboration involves coordinating and aligning an agency-level response and engaging medical licensing boards, associations, health care systems, state Medicaid organizations (coordinated care organizations), law enforcement, criminal justice, and private insurers to drive policies that institutionalize model opioid prescribing guidelines, optimize pain care, and increase access to evidence-based treatment for SUD and harm reduction strategies.

### Best Practice Recommendations

The Oregon Health Leadership Council is developing an Oregon version of the California Checklist for Health Plans and Purchasers, which will provide a set of best practice recommendations for Oregon health plans and purchasers on coverage for pain, opioids, and treatment of SUD.

## Education and public awareness

### Pain Education for Providers and Patients

The Oregon Pain Management Commission (OPMC) developed an online pain education training module for providers (“Changing the Conversation about Pain: Pain Care is Everyone’s Job”) and patient versions of the pain education module. The pain education material reflects the latest pain science information and is aligned with the National Institutes of Health National Pain Strategy. The OPMC education module for providers was launched in January 2018 and was significantly updated in June 2021. The aim of the module is to improve pain care across the continuum and to support all licensed clinicians in the state, facilitating effective collaboration and communication between regulatory agencies, health care providers, insurers, and patients. The module includes tools to provide consistent messaging about pain, identify evidence-based treatment strategies for nonpharmacological treatment, and highlight ways to better manage the impact of complex pain. The module focuses on active lifestyle changes as a first-line treatment rather than passive interventions such as opioids, injections, and surgeries. Continuing education credits are sponsored by the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Nurses Association.

### Patient Pain Education Toolkit

Designed to accompany the OPMC professional pain module and align with Oregon’s equity-focused Heal Safely campaign, the Oregon Pain Guidance Pain Education Toolkit for patients features videos and handouts on understanding pain, coping with pain during COVID-19, sleep, mood, nutrition, activity, flare-ups, social connections, pain medications, and mood. The new toolkit posted in March 2021; it is referenced throughout the refreshed OPMC training module and other trainings and is disseminated through medical boards, professional associations, and other partner groups. Link to new toolkit: <https://www.oregonpainguidance.org/paineducationtoolkit/>

### Educational Campaign

In partnership with Brink Communications, the Heal Safely campaign was rolled out; it is a social marketing campaign aimed at significantly reducing or preventing future prescription opioid use to manage acute pain. The campaign focuses on communities that have experienced disparities in health and health care, including:

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- African American
- Latino/as
- People living in rural communities

2,376 website users chose to watch messenger videos on the site, and many watched more than one video.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

More than 100,000 naloxone kits have been purchased and distributed in multiple counties through local syringe services programs and other organizations. Approximately 3,378 reported overdose reversals occurred using STR funds alone.

## Increasing access to treatment

Oregon has focused efforts on expansion of the MAT workforce and Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

## **MAT Expansion**

Using STR and SOR funding, since 2017 Oregon established or expanded services in 7 OTPs and 12 office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) programs.

## **Project ECHO**

Rural providers have received training on OUD through Project ECHO. Since 2017, 749 people have participated in an Addiction Medicine ECHO program; of that number, 534 people identify as caring for rural, medically underserved, or American Indian/Alaska Native populations.

# Supporting long-term recovery

## **Peer Support in Hospitals and Jails**

Beginning with a pilot project in 4 counties, peers are used in hospital and jail settings to connect individuals with overdose reversals to services. Individuals coming into emergency departments are provided a peer support specialist who connects the individuals to MAT and other recovery services. STR and SOR funds have been used to enhance the emergency department projects and expand the role of peers in hospitals and jails in 23 more counties.

## **PRIME+**

PRIME+ started as a pilot in 3 counties and has expanded to 23 counties. The project involves connecting people to peer recovery specialists in medical establishments and providing HCV (hepatitis C virus) testing and linkage to care. The project has expanded harm reduction work to over 60 peer mentors and has gained access in multiple hospital and primary care systems. PRIME+ has paved the way for reaching individuals with SUD in places not typically served by traditional SUD systems.

## **Recovery High School**

Oregon established their first recovery high school, Harmony Academy, which is exclusively for students with SUDs. Recovery high school is an evidence-based model that has demonstrated success in keeping adolescents in recovery and assists them in graduating from high school on time.

## **Recovery Support Services**

Oregon has expanded and diversified recovery support services through an array of evidence-based wellness programs such as Recovery Gym, Recovery Toolkit series for individuals with SUD, and Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous (MARA) groups for young adults. STR and SOR funds also support housing support services for individuals with OUD in multiple counties.

# Serving special populations

## **Culturally specific RCOs**

Oregon has assisted in the creation or expansion of culturally specific RCOs, including targeting youth (ages 18–35), Black and African American, LatinX, and the Native populations.

## **Oregon Tribal Opioid Training Academy**

The Oregon Tribal Opioid Training Academy is an annual training for Tribal communities and people who work with Tribes to build capacity and learn skills related to substance use, culture, and community that can be applied to their work and communities. The June 15–17, 2021, virtual Oregon Tribal Opioid

Training Academy was coordinated by Lines for Life in collaboration with Tribal members and leaders in the Pacific Northwest. There were 154 people registered for the Academy, and about 85 people were in regular attendance throughout the training. Training attendees primarily represented Tribes, local and state public and behavioral health authorities, and health systems. A total of 59 training attendees completed the evaluation form. Overall, almost all participants (92%) reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the training. Most survey participants (57%) indicated that they will change their practice or community because of participating in this training.

## Nurture Oregon

Oregon has implemented Nurture Oregon in more than six counties. The program serves pregnant women with SUD, including providing SUD clinical care; primary care, including a doula; and peer recovery mentor services.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- The Oregon Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Task Force produced guidelines for chronic pain, recommendations for opioids during pregnancy, dental recommendations, and acute prescribing guidelines.
- From February 2018 through June 2021, 28,312 providers completed the pain education module through OPMC.
- PRIME+ has served 1,419 individuals who agreed to follow-up contact by the peer since 2019.
- Since 2017, 749 people have participated in an Addiction Medicine ECHO program, with 534 identifying as caring for rural, medically underserved, or American Indian/Alaska Native populations.
- More than 100,000 naloxone kits have been purchased and distributed. Approximately 3,378 overdose reversals have been reported using STR funds alone.
- There are now 600–1,800 Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA)–waivered providers, which is a 300% increase in the last 4–5 years.

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.