

NASADAD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ALCOHOL AND DRUG AGENCY DIRECTORS

The national network for state substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery leadership.

The Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies

Single State Agencies (SSAs) are the designated lead agencies in each state or jurisdiction responsible for managing the federal and state funding that supports substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services and systems.

SSAs operate under different statutes and regulations and vary in their functions, size, and placement within state government. Despite these differences, they share common characteristics and a central role in administering comprehensive substance use services across the continuum of care.

The development of effective federal policy depends on an awareness and appreciation of the critical role SSAs play in managing the nation's prevention, treatment, and recovery infrastructure.

The **National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors (NASADAD)** serves as the national voice of SSAs from across the nation.

SSA Core Functions



Managing the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant

The **Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant** is a federal formula grant allocated to NASADAD members, which totaled \$2.008 billion in 2025. By statute, the block grant is designed to serve individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use, with particular attention to priority populations and services, such as substance use primary prevention and treatment for pregnant women and women with dependent children.



Managing Opioid-Specific Grants to States

NASADAD members manage the **State Opioid Response (SOR) grants**, totaling \$1.575 billion in FY 2025. SOR addresses the opioid overdose crisis by providing resources to states and territories to increase access to treatment and reduce opioid-related overdose deaths through prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. SOR grants also support evidence-based services for stimulant misuse and use disorders (StUD), including cocaine and methamphetamine.



Promoting Effectiveness Through Planning, Oversight, and Accountability

States work collaboratively with stakeholders to craft and implement annual plans for statewide service delivery. In doing so, state agencies employ mechanisms to ensure public programs are effective, including performance data management and reporting, contract monitoring, corrective action planning, on-site reviews, and technical assistance.



Reporting Data

The management of federal and state funds requires states to collect and report data describing the services and programs supported by these funding streams. This includes information on the number and characteristics of individuals served, as well as performance and outcome data that help demonstrate the impact of services such as reducing the use of alcohol and other drugs, increasing employment, and decreasing criminal justice involvement.



Promoting and Ensuring Quality

State agencies work to ensure services are of the highest quality through state-established standards of care. NASADAD members are dedicated to continuous quality improvement and initiatives that promote innovative practices and programs. State Directors use data to determine needs, improve practices, and inform management decisions.



Encouraging Coordination Across State Government

SSAs promote cross-agency collaboration in recognition of the impact alcohol and other drugs has across multiple sectors. State Directors engage with criminal justice entities on issues such as offender reentry, drug courts, and diversion initiatives, and collaborate with agencies responsible for education, child welfare, transportation, primary care, and other systems to ensure high-risk populations are reached and provided with comprehensive care.



Working With the Provider Community

SSAs maintain essential relationships with the provider community by providing funding, training, continuing education, oversight, and other support to them. Collaboration between SSAs and providers facilitates the effective delivery of community-based services.

Why Single State Agencies Matter

SSAs are the backbone of the nation's substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery system, translating federal investments into accountable, coordinated services that reach communities in every state and territory. In doing so, SSAs provide Congress with a trusted, accountable structure for ensuring federal substance use funding delivers measurable results and aligns with national priorities.

Contact Us



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