

SOUTH CAROLINA

USE OF STR/SOR GRANT FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

Background on opioid-specific grants to States

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. These grants aim 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 activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) in the States. States received a total of \$500 million for each of FY 2017 and FY 2018 through STR. Additionally, in FY 2018, States received an additional \$1 billion in new funding through the SOR grants. In FY 2019, States received \$1.5 billion through SOR. Eligible applicants for both STR and SOR are the State alcohol and drug agencies.

Allocations for South Carolina

South Carolina received \$6.5 million through STR for each of FY 2017 and 2018, and \$14 million through SOR in FY 2018. In FY 2019, South Carolina received a total of \$21 million through SOR.

Overview of South Carolina's efforts to address the opioid crisis

The S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) is dedicated to enhancing and expanding opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for underserved South Carolinians. Through the State Opioid Response (SOR) project, DAODAS is implementing life-saving strategies to expand capacity and access to the three FDA-approved medications available for OUD; improving the skills of the workforce for the delivery of evidence-based practices; increasing access to naloxone for the reversal of overdose through community distribution; seeking to increase knowledge of OUD and to reduce stigma through a coordinated public education campaign designed to inform South Carolinians on the dangers of misusing prescription opioids; and raising awareness of the resources available around the State for those affected by OUD.

Tackling the crisis from prevention – implementing evidence-based strategies to reduce access to and the availability of prescriptions – through a full continuum of recovery services by supporting both transitional housing and the development and expansion of Recovery Community Organizations, DAODAS and its partners are working together to serve those individuals with unmet needs.

Primary prevention: stopping opioid misuse before it starts

Just Plain Killers Education Campaign

The first phase of the Just Plain Killers (JPK) campaign launched on January 10, 2018. The campaign is designed to educate South Carolinians on the dangers of misusing prescription opioids and the resources available throughout the State for those affected by opioid use disorder. JPK began with a heavy public relations push, including a press conference featuring Governor Henry McMaster; social media content on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; and a traditional paid media effort.

The paid outreach efforts began in January 2018 with paid social and display ads promoting the pledge to avoid opioid misuse. In February, broader efforts began with the launch of broadcast and cable television, along with donated over-the-top television time. Broadcast and cable television airings began in February 2018 and ran for a total of six weeks throughout the State in the four major South Carolina Designated Marketing Areas.

In addition, DAODAS, along with the State's county alcohol and drug abuse authorities, provided information to the public on the JPK campaign through presentations, handouts (brochures, fact sheets, palm cards, etc.), and billboards/radio PSAs.

SC Governor's Opioid Summit

The Governor's Opioid Summit was held in 2017 and 2018, drawing more than 600 participants each year. For 2019, targeted SOR funding was used to help sponsor national subject matter experts to provide cutting edge information related to OUD, and potentially enhance the inclusion of attendees who are in recovery.

Education

Funds are also being used to ensure a new South Carolina School for Substance Use Disorder and Opioid Treatment includes education about evidence-based OUD services in a cross-disciplinary approach.

Work with Local Coalitions

SOR sub-grants were awarded to expand community coalitions in South Carolina, building on the current Partnership for Success (PFS) grant. The State selected eight counties based on data related to opiate severity metrics. In January and February 2019, the funded counties received training from Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) on conducting local needs assessments, developing logic models, selecting strategies, and developing strategic action plans. As of the end of March, plans had been approved and the counties had moved into the implementation phase.

Increasing access to treatment

Access to MAT

- With STR funds, the State-funded county alcohol and drug abuse authorities have been able to deliver evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). With capacity support, 26 of the 32 county authorities now offer MAT with psychobehavioral therapy. SOR funds will continue and expand the fee-for-service reimbursement for treatment costs for MAT, psychosocial therapy, and case management services for uninsured or underinsured patients at contracted provider sites.
- DAODAS is in the implementation phase of a Medicaid-like health home model that integrates MAT and psychobehavioral therapies with primary care for patients with OUD. Funds will allow current community-based substance use disorder providers to transform to primary care clinic settings with Office-Based Opioid Agonist Treatment capabilities that ensure primary medical care services, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV) screening, MAT, care coordination, and a set of core psychosocial services are delivered to patients with OUD.

Workforce Training and Support

- Under the STR/SOR grant, in order to increase capacity for treating those with an OUD, there have been nine Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) 2000 waiver trainings
- SOR will continue training healthcare professionals across the State using the Project ECHO model to enhance the delivery of evidence-based care for OUD. Project ECHO is a successful model for linking primary care clinicians with addictions counselors to jointly manage complex illness using real-time learning made possible by teleconferencing technology.

Special Populations

- DAODAS has assigned two Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) to the S.C. Department of Corrections' (SCDC) Offender Re-Entry Project, which offers naltrexone, combined with talk therapy, to inmate volunteers within 90 days of their release. SOR funds will add a third CPSS to the project to expand access to more inmates ready for release. Each CPSS guides the inmates and serves as a support system during the transition from the SCDC institutions to a warm handoff to local service providers, recovery housing, and job opportunities.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

The majority of naloxone that was purchased and used in South Carolina came under the Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) grant, with STR funds used to purchase 89 naloxone kits for patients/caregivers seen by Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

On May 3, 2018, the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act (44-130-10), was amended by the South Carolina legislature to include provisions for community distribution of naloxone. To date, DAODAS has approved 29 county alcohol and drug abuse authorities to be community distributors of naloxone and used SOR funds to provide those sites with 2,196 units of naloxone.

Supporting recovery

Recovery Coaching and Peer Support

Thousands of Recovery Coaching sessions are occurring in the State's growing regional Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) each month. Additionally, peer support service encounters were provided by county alcohol and drug abuse authorities contributing to a growing workforce of South Carolina-trained Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS), representing a sea change in the efficacy of our recovery-oriented systems of care and recovery to practice. CPSS's have made significant impacts in emergency department pilot programs, and their success is now being implemented on a broader scale.

Recovery Housing

Thanks to the allocation of STR and now SOR funding, DAODAS has been able to leverage the recovery communities' use of the Oxford House model in both urban and rural areas across South Carolina. Targeted response to recovery housing needs for reentry and recovery enhancement have generated a dramatic 71% increase in availability and occupancy over the past 18 months.

Collaborating with local entities

Collaborations are statewide, throughout all counties and multiple agencies. Programs implemented include community coalitions in counties for prevention education and messaging; support to county alcohol and drug use authorities to provide psychosocial services and the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of OUD; community distribution of naloxone; and the development of medical homes. Peer Support Specialists are in emergency departments and rural communities; DAODAS is involved in reentry programs in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and is working with Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) to support a full continuum of services and support for those who are underserved with unmet needs.

Positive outcomes

- The "Just Plain Killers" educational campaign had 7.85 million video impressions and during the first phase, 9,171 users visited the website. "Pre" and "post" survey results indicated that 47% of SC residents could recall one or more statements from the campaign and 52% could recall one or more visual elements.
- 301 medical providers participated in the nine DATA 2000 waiver trainings.
- From 2017 to 2018, there was a 200% increase in the number of patients able to receive MAT.

- 488 incarcerated individuals participated in the DOC's Offender Re-Entry Project.
- 801 pregnant women have been served.
- Since May 2017, 3,869 military clients (active and veteran) have been served
- A total of 7,909 clients were served through the STR/SOR program with 5,215 receiving methadone; 2,191 receiving buprenorphine; and 213 receiving naloxone.
- 3,406 individuals served in Recovery Community Organizations.
- 22 Oxford Houses were opened across the SC in State FY 2019, for total of 73 Oxford Houses currently operating, with 5 designated for women with children.
- 273 students served in Collegiate Recovery programs.
- 310 individuals in recovery trained and certified as Peer Support Specialists/Recovery Coaches serving in emergency departments, county jails and the Department of Corrections. This is a 68% increase over the number of certified Peer Support Specialists in State FY 2019.

For more information, contact Robert Morrison, Executive Director, at rmorrison@nasadad.org, or Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman, Federal Affairs Manager, at swickramatilake@nasadad.org.