

Texas Targeted Opioid Response

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TEXAS
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1. Introduction

On September 19, 2018, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Texas \$46.2 million in State Opioid Response (SOR) funds to extend and expand HHSC's response to the opioid crisis. On May 6, 2019 the state received a \$24.1 million supplemental award under this grant. HHSC is implementing these funds through the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) Program, which was created in May 2017 when SAMHSA initially awarded State Targeted Response (STR) funds in the amount of \$27.4 million.

SAMHSA also awarded HHSC two smaller discretionary grants in 2016 and 2017 targeting opioid use. Services provided with these funds are coordinated with the SOR and STR funds to maximize services without duplication.

- The Texas Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx) is a five-year grant in the amount of \$1,858,080 aimed at raising awareness about the risks of overprescribing to young adults, and bringing prescription misuse prevention activities and education to schools, communities, and parents.
- The Texas First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) grant is a four-year grant in the amount of \$3.2 million. The goal of this collaborative project is to reduce opioid overdose related mortality rates, strengthen the successfulness of first response to overdose, and coordinate care for overdose survivors in Bexar County.

TTOR strategies span the behavioral health continuum of care funding prevention activities, treatment and recovery services, as well as integrated projects. To meet federal grantee requirements, streamline deployment of funds, and maintain quality services, HHSC plans to expand existing contracts and partner with governmental entities such as academic institutions and local mental health authorities (LMHAs) that provide Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) functions.

The first step of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Strategic Prevention Framework is to gather and assess data from a variety of sources to ensure that prevention, treatment, and recovery support efforts are appropriate and targeted to community needs. TTOR will support

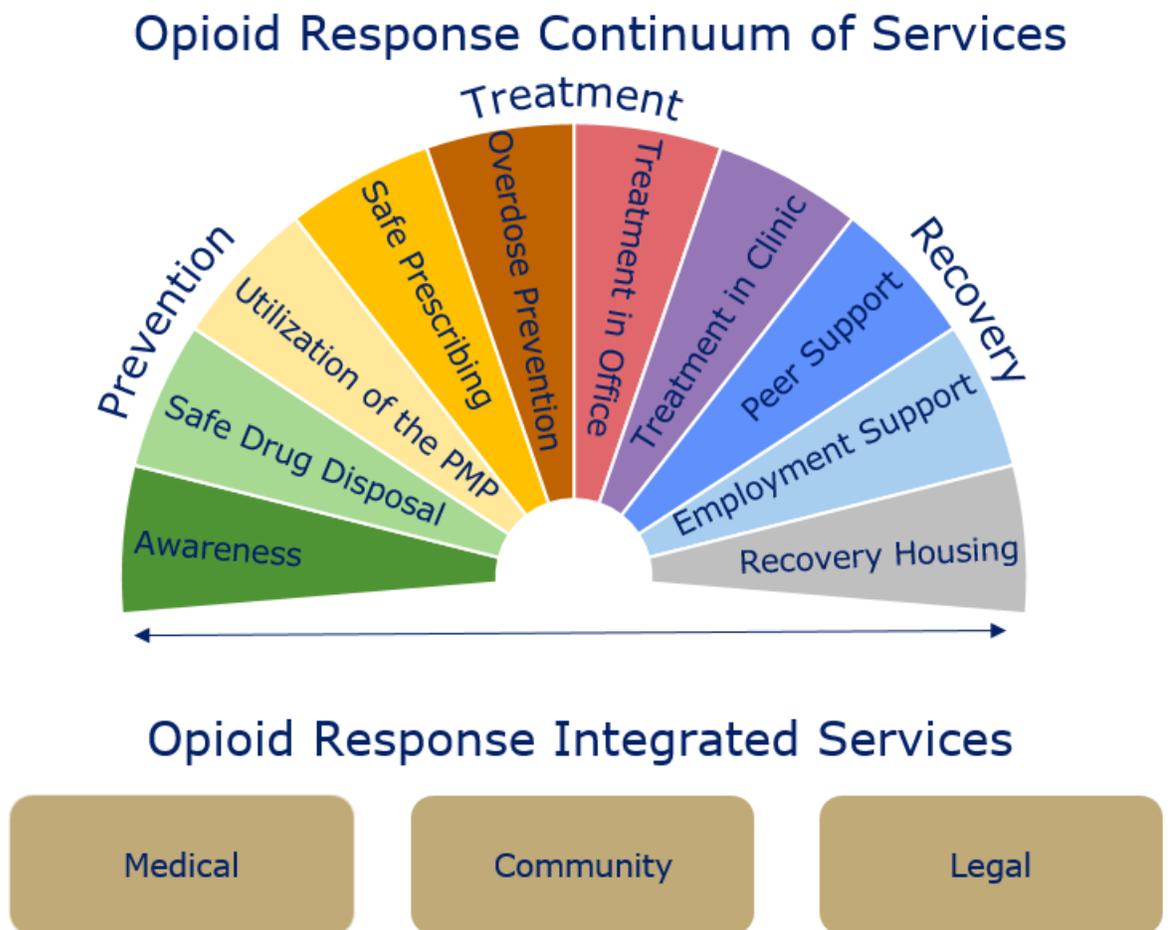
independent evaluation of services and implement continuous quality improvement plans to ensure delivery of evidence-based interventions and support of data sharing.

Implementation Approach

Grant Program Overview

The TTOR program implemented a continuum of services model to target prevention, treatment, and recovery focus areas as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Opioid Response Continuum of Services Model



Prevention

Awareness - These projects will provide services to Texans across the lifespan to enhance social and emotional skills, increase knowledge about opioid misuse-related dangers, and aid in finding help for opioid use disorder. The goals are to prevent opioid misuse before it occurs and help Texans know how to access care.

Safe Drug Disposal - This project includes safe drug disposal initiatives such as drug take back events, drug drop-boxes, and single-use drug disposal pouches. The goal is to reduce the availability of unused medications that can lead to opioid misuse.

Utilization of the Prescription Monitoring Program – The goal of this project is to increase prescriber and pharmacist enrollment and meaningful use of the Prescription Monitoring Program to ensure not only patient screening but identification of problematic opioid use and appropriate referral to treatment.

Safe Prescribing – This project supports prescriber education and online training aimed at reducing opioid misuse through safe prescribing practices.

Overdose Prevention – This project supports overdose prevention education, access to overdose reversal medication (naloxone), and overdose reversal tracking tools with the goal of providing timely community response and reducing overdose death.

Treatment

Office Based Treatment – This project increases access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) in a variety of settings outside of the traditional clinic by increasing the number of physicians providing both buprenorphine and extended release naltrexone, expanding opportunities for physicians to obtain DATA 2000 Waiver training, creating a professional peer mentoring network, and expanding the network of state-funded treatment providers.

Clinic Based Treatment – This project increases access to all three U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (methadone, buprenorphine, and extended release naltrexone) by expanding capacity at new and existing clinics. This will enable clinics to treat both primary opioid use disorder along with co-morbid conditions such as hepatitis C, psychiatric conditions, and wound care at a single clinic site.

Recovery

Peer Support – This project expands peer recovery support services throughout the state in a variety of settings and provides opportunities for enhanced training in medication assisted recovery for the peer support workforce.

Employment Services – This project provides job developer and supported employment services for individuals in medication assisted recovery from opioid use disorders as well as support to the emergency services personnel referral program.

Recovery Housing – This project provides resources to increase safe housing and eliminate discriminatory barriers for individuals in medication assisted recovery from opioid use disorder.

Integrated

Medical – This project serves individuals at high risk for overdose and overdose survivors to ensure they receive treatment induction, recovery support, community medical support, and overdose prevention services.

Community – This project supports access to treatment, recovery support, overdose prevention, and linkage to care through OSAR services, Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams, and 24/7 overdose prevention community drop-in sites.

Legal - This project provides 24/7 overdose prevention pre-arrest diversion services located within sobering centers. Services include treatment induction, recovery support, overdose prevention, and linkage to care. In addition, this project will prepare individuals for release from incarceration back into their identified communities by providing pre-release medication assisted treatment, linkage to on-going treatment, peer recovery support, and overdose prevention services.

2. Grant Award Information

Funding

TTOR encompasses four grant opportunities from SAMHSA totaling more than \$176 million over the expected funding periods:

- STR: \$54,724,714
- SOR: \$116,589,770
- SPF-Rx: \$1,858,080
- FR-CARA: \$3,200,000

Timeline

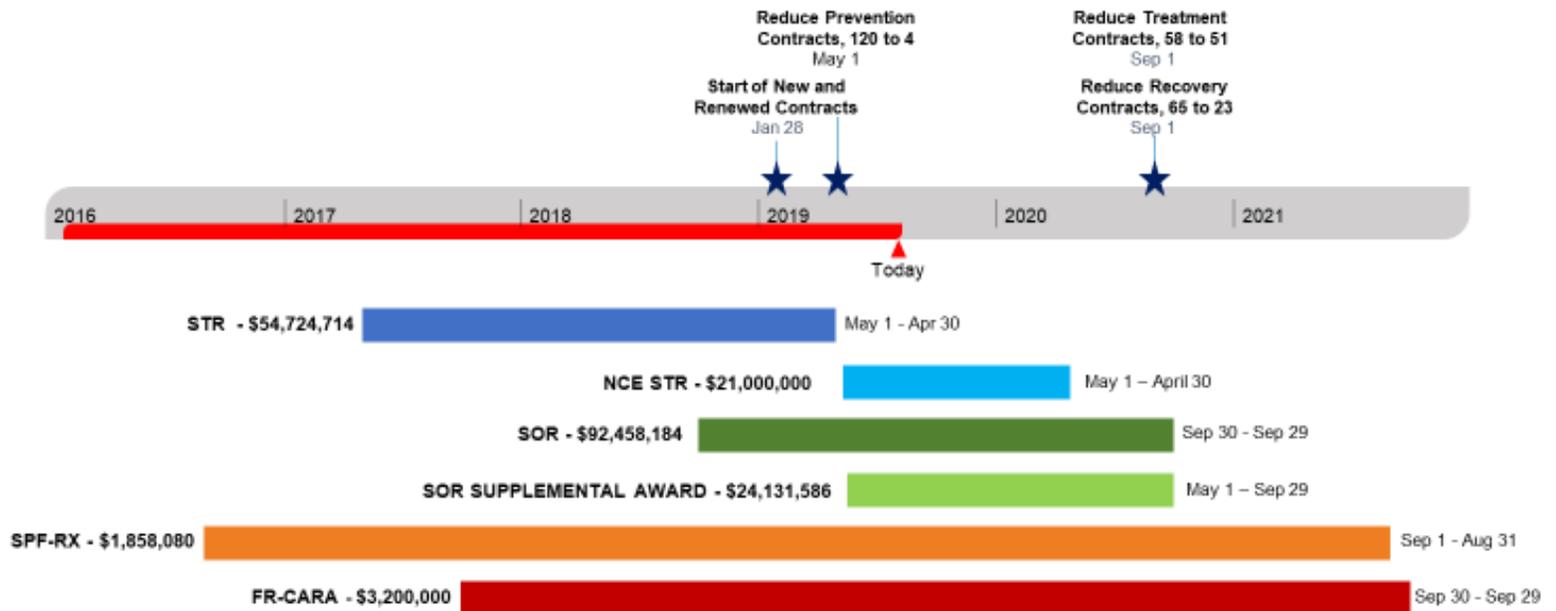
On September 19, 2018, SAMHSA awarded Texas \$46.2 million in SOR funds to extend and expand HHSC's response to the opioid crisis. On May 6, 2019 the state received a \$24.1 million supplemental award under this grant bringing total potential funding to over \$116 million over the two-year period. HHSC is implementing these funds through the TTOR Program, which was created in May 2017 when SAMHSA initially awarded STR funds in the amount of \$27.4 million.

The funding for all grants is awarded evenly on an annual basis. For example, the FR-CARA grant is a four-year grant, with HHSC receiving \$800,000 per fiscal year. HHSC applied for and received a no-cost extension (NCE) of the STR funds allowing HHSC to extend federally approved projects beyond the grant term.

- STR: May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2019
- SOR: September 30, 2018, through September 29, 2020
- SOR Supplement: May 6, 2019 through Sept 29, 2020
- SPF-Rx: September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2021
- FR-CARA: September 30, 2017, through September 29, 2021

Figure 2 illustrates the overlap for all TTOR projects implementation timelines.

Figure 2. All TTOR Project Implementation Timelines 2016-2021



Distribution of Funds

SOR implementation includes funding prevention activities, treatment and recovery services, as well as integrated projects. To meet federal grantee requirements and be more efficient in deployment of funds and expand quality services, HHSC plans to expand existing STR contracts and partner with governmental entities and local units of government such as academic institutions and LMHAs that provide OSAR functions and collaborate with various system agency partners through the execution of inter-agency and program agreements.

Overall, this approach seeks to ensure compliance with federal timeline and grant requirements, ensure access to evidence-based and timely care, and streamline contracting processes to allow for a more expedited deployment of resources into communities to address the opioid crisis. This approach will reduce the number of contracts from approximately 300 to 100 while boosting inter-agency collaboration.

3. Addressing System Gaps

Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Goals

The TTOR program aims to address the following goals in the *2017-2021 Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan*:

- **Goal 1:** Program and Service Coordination – Promote and support behavioral health program and service coordination to ensure continuity of services and access points across state agencies.
- **Goal 2:** Program and Service Delivery – Ensure optimal service delivery to maximize resources to effectively meet the diverse needs of people and communities.
- **Goal 3:** Prevention and Early Intervention Services – Maximize behavioral health prevention and early intervention services across state agencies.
- **Goal 4:** Financial Alignment – Ensure that the financial alignment of behavioral health funding best meets the needs across Texas.

Goal Outputs

* Please note that the outputs and outcomes in this publication are for the period of May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2019. To date, approximately 132,449 individuals have received TTOR program services:

- **Prevention Services**
 - ▶ 106,709 people have participated in opioid misuse prevention activities; The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant began sustaining these activities September, 2018.
 - ▶ 4,589 individuals have received overdose prevention training;
 - ▶ 84,734 medication disposal pouches have been distributed;
 - ▶ 1,883 medical and behavioral health professionals have received overdose prevention online continuation education;
 - ▶ 23,276 pounds of prescription drugs were disposed; and

- ▶ More than 192,567 naloxone kits (each containing two 2mg doses) have been distributed.
- **Treatment Services**
 - ▶ 6230 individuals have received medication-assisted treatment;
 - ▶ 3,082 health screening, testing, and treatment for comorbid conditions made available to individuals receiving medication-assisted treatment.
- **Recovery Support Services**
 - ▶ 2,723 individuals with OUD have received peer recovery coaching services;
 - ▶ 1,855 individuals enrolled in long-term Recovery Coaching;
 - ▶ 227 individuals with OUD have been authorized to receive employment services;
 - ▶ 80 individuals with a history of opioid use have received recovery support services including overdose prevention services prior to and upon release from jail; and
 - ▶ 173 individuals with OUD have entered recovery housing.
- **Integrated Services**
 - ▶ 799 individuals have received overdose-related emergency response services;
 - ▶ 311 individuals with OUD have received overdose-related services through Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams; and
 - ▶ 1,172 individuals with OUD have accessed treatment services through OSAR Priority Admission Counselors within three days of screening.

Goal Outcomes

Through evidence-based strategies implemented with STR funding, HHSC has seen the following outcomes:

- Reported overdose reversals increased from 82 in year 1 to 1,086 in year 2 - this is 13 times greater than the year before;
- Almost 100 percent increase in the proportion of OUD admissions admitted to MAT from year 1 to year 2;
- Increased the proportion of people served in evidence based treatment for OUD from 16 percent to almost 35 percent;
- 110 Recovery Coaches have directly facilitated access to MAT services.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
FR-CARA	First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grant
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
LMHA	Local Mental Health Authority
MAT	Medication Assisted Treatment
OSAR	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral
OUD	Opioid Use Disorder
PMP	Prescription Monitoring Program
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SPF-Rx	Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs
SOR	State Opioid Response Grant
STR	State Targeted Response Grant
TTOR	Texas Targeted Opioid Response Project
U.S.	United States