

Texas Targeted Opioid Response

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Introduction

HHSC implemented the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) Program in May 2017 to address the opioid crisis in Texas. This effort was supported by State Targeted Response (STR) funds in the amount of \$27.4 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

On September 19, 2018, SAMHSA awarded HHSC \$46.2 million for the State Opioid Response 2018 (SOR18) to extend and expand HHSC's response to the opioid crisis. On May 6, 2019, SAMHSA awarded HHSC a \$24.1 million supplemental award under this grant. On August 27, 2020, SAMHSA awarded HHSC \$52.1 million for State Opioid Response 2020 (SOR20) to continue the state's on-going response to the opioid crisis.

In 2016 and 2017, SAMHSA awarded HHSC two additional discretionary grants targeting opioid use. In order to maximize SOR20 funds and ensure services without duplication, HHSC coordinates SOR20 services with services provided through:

- 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.
- Texas First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR- CARA) grant is a four-year grant in the amount of \$3.2 million designed to reduce opioid overdose related mortality rates, strengthen the success 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.

SAMHSA developed the [Strategic Prevention Framework](#) to assist prevention planners with establishing and implementing effective plans to address substance misuse. The first step of the 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. Therefore, TTOR supports independent evaluation of services and implements continuous quality improvement to ensure delivery of evidence-based interventions and support of data sharing.

1. 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

Opioid Response Continuum of Services



Opioid Response Integrated Services



Prevention

Strategy	Description	Location
Awareness	Provides 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 (OUD).	Statewide education https://txopioidresponse.org/
Safe Drug Disposal	Fund safe drug disposal initiatives, such as drug take back events, drug drop-boxes, and single-use drug disposal pouches.	Statewide distribution to prevention coalitions
Prescription Monitoring Program	Increases prescriber and pharmacist enrollment and meaningful use of the Prescription Monitoring Program to ensure patient screening, identification of problematic opioid use, and appropriate referral to treatment.	Statewide support at www.txpmp.org
Safe Prescribing	Supports prescriber education and online training aimed at reducing opioid misuse through safe prescribing practices.	Statewide support at http://sites.utexas.edu/PhARM/txoti/
Overdose Prevention	Supports overdose prevention education, access to overdose reversal medication (naloxone), and overdose reversal tracking tools.	Statewide distribution through www.morenarcanglease.com

Treatment

Strategy	Description	Location
Treatment (outside of clinic)	Increases access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) in a variety of settings outside traditional clinics 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.	8 LMHAs/ LBHAs; 10 sites statewide with UT Health – more information at https://txmoud.org
Treatment (within clinic)	Increases access to all three U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of OUD (methadone, buprenorphine, and extended release naltrexone) by expanding capacity at new and existing clinics. This enables clinics to treat both primary OUD along with co-morbid conditions such as hepatitis C, psychiatric conditions, and wound care at a single clinic site.	46 clinics statewide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 TTOR funded

Recovery

Strategy	Description	Location
Peer Support	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.	Approximately 14 throughout the state with an additional 11 sites expected
Employment Support	Provides job developer and supported employment services for individuals in medication assisted recovery from OUD, as well as support to the emergency services personnel referral program.	6 programs in San Antonio, El Paso, the Rio Grande Valley, Central Texas, and East Texas
Recovery Housing	Provides resources to increase safe housing and eliminate discriminatory barriers for individuals in medication assisted recovery from OUD.	11 homes to be established serving large metro, rural, border, and tribal communities

Integrated

Strategy	Description	Location
Medical	Serves people at high risk for overdose and overdose survivors to ensure they receive treatment induction, recovery support, community medical support, and overdose prevention services.	Programs in Bexar, Williamson, and Harris counties soon to expand to 14 additional sites throughout the state
Community	Enhances 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.	Located at 14 LMHAs/LBHAs covering all 11 health service regions; 5 MCOT teams in central Texas, north Texas, and southeast Texas; drop-in sites in Travis and El Paso counties
Legal	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. This project also supports people about to be released from incarceration by providing pre-release medication assisted treatment, linkage to on-going treatment, peer recovery support, and overdose prevention services.	Drop-in sites located in Bexar and Harris counties, reentry located in Harris, Tarrant, and Rio Grande Valley area, prison reentry location serves inmates throughout the state

2. Grant Award Information

Funding and Timeline

SAMHSA Grant Award	Funding Awarded	Funding Period
STR	\$54.7 million	May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2020
SOR18	\$92.4 million	September 30, 2018 – September 29, 2021
SOR18 Supplemental	\$24.2 million	May 1, 2019 – September 29, 2021
SOR20	\$104.4 million	September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2022
SPF-Rx	\$1.8 million	September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2021
FR-CARA	\$3.2 million	September 30, 2017 – September 29, 2021

Figure 2. All TTOR Project Implementation Timelines 2016-2021



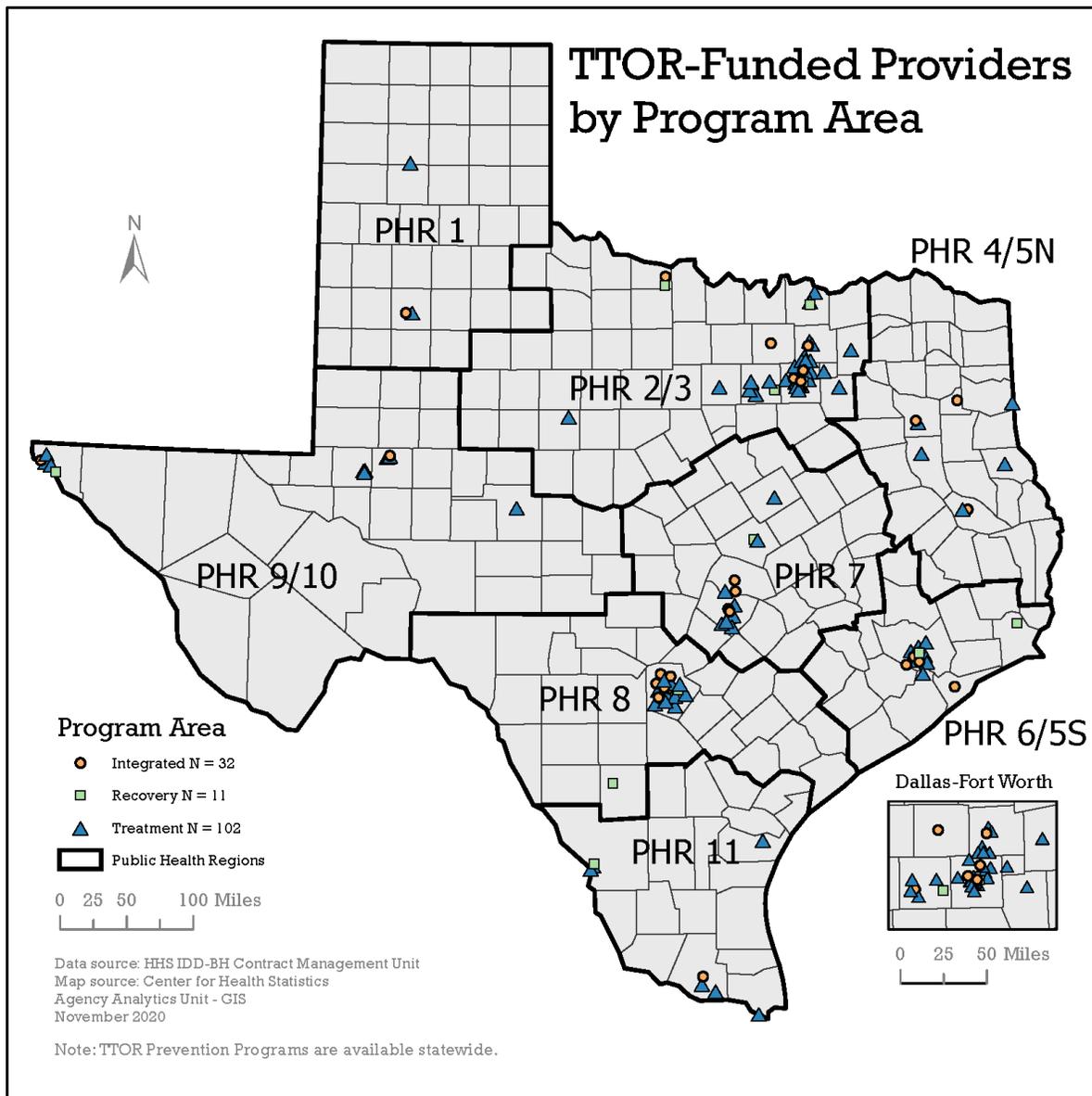
Distribution of Funds

To meet federal grantee requirements and be more efficient in deployment of funds and expand quality services, HHSC leverages existing contracts and partners with governmental entities and local units of government, such as academic institutions, LMHAs and LBHAs providing OSAR functions.

SOR20 funds will continue TTOR's investment in prevention, treatment, and recovery services. These include a public education campaign promoting healthy behaviors and educating about the harms of opioid misuse, a statewide overdose prevention education and naloxone distribution program, maintenance of capacity expansion for opioid treatment services (in both clinic- and office-based settings), treatment for comorbid conditions such as HIV and viral hepatitis, and a project to increase recovery support services that boosts peer support, housing, and re-entry recovery capital.

SOR20 funds will also ensure continuity of care through integrated in-patient hospital settings, pre-arrest diversion, and community access programs that blend prevention, treatment, and recovery services that reduce barriers to access.

Figure 3. Geographic Distribution of TTOR-Funded Providers



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 85, 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

May 2017 through September 2020

Prevention

- 318,263 Naloxone kits (two 4mg doses) distributed
- 6,251 individuals received overdose prevention training
- 270,345 people participated in opioid misuse prevention activities

Treatment

- 7,265 individuals received MAT services
- 33,302 health screenings, testing, and treatment services for comorbid conditions were made available to individuals receiving MAT

Recovery

- 12,547 individuals with OUD were offered peer recovery coaching services
- 784 individuals were enrolled in long- term peer recovery coaching
- 107 individuals with a history of opioid use received recovery support services prior to and upon release from jail

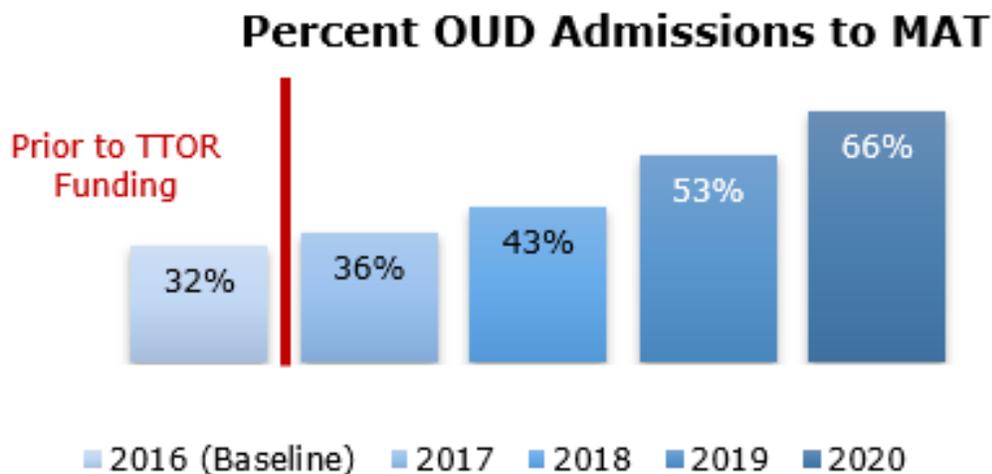
Integrated

- 1,257 individuals received overdose-related emergency response services
- 539 individuals with OUD received overdose-related services through Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT)

Goal Outcomes

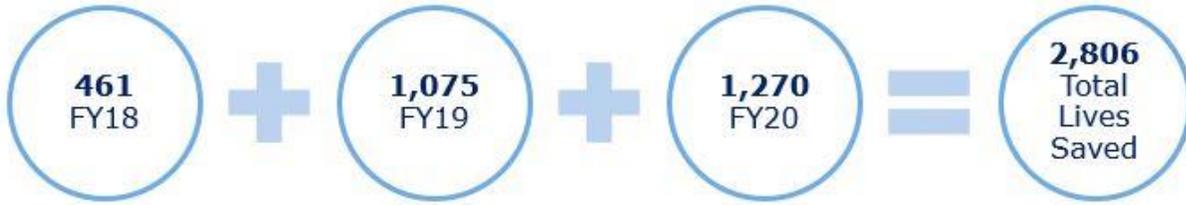
Through evidence-based strategies implemented with TTOR funding, HHSC has seen the outcomes listed below.

HHSC has seen an increase in the percentage of people served in evidence-based treatment for OUD, from 32 percent in fiscal year 2016 to 66 percent in fiscal year 2020. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, 685 admissions to MAT were attributed, in whole or in part, to a Recovery Coach.



As of August 2020, a total of 2,806 overdose reversals have been reported using naloxone purchased with TTOR funds.

Opioid-Related Overdose Reversals



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
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