

# **State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis**



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES**

## **2017-2019 Treatment and Recovery Activity Report**

P-02548 (12/2019)

## Summary

In the last two decades, Wisconsin has experienced a surge in opioid abuse and its related harmful consequences—with the age-adjusted death rate from opioid overdoses increasing over fivefold in that time. In the last decade alone, the number of opioid-related deaths in Wisconsin has nearly doubled. To make an impact on these trends, the Department of Health Services (DHS) developed and implemented a plan focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

In February 2017, the DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services applied for a grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant focused on advancing prevention strategies and expanding access to treatment and recovery supports to reduce opioid-related deaths. The two-year grant began May 1, 2017, and ended April 30, 2019. Table 1 shows the amount of federal funding received in each year of the grant. Table 2 shows the annual budgeted amount for each project area funded by the grant.

**Table 1: Grant Funding Amounts**

	<b>Grant Award</b>
<b>Year 1</b> (May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018)	\$7,636,938
<b>Year 2</b> (May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019)	\$7,636,938
<b>TOTAL GRANT AWARD</b>	\$15,273,876

**Table 2: Annual Budget by Project**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
County and Tribal Waitlists and Unmet Treatment Needs	\$2,387,092
Hospital-Based Recovery Supports	\$1,400,000
Regional Opioid Treatment Centers	\$1,008,000
Medication-Assisted Treatment Implementation and Expansion	\$1,000,000
Prevention Strategies	\$730,000
Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline	\$400,000
State Costs to Administer Grant (State staff salaries, etc.)	\$381,846
Workforce Development (Trainings/technical assistance)	\$270,000
Recovery Corps	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$7,636,938</b>

This report focuses only on the treatment and recovery support services funded under the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant. Reports on the prevention strategies funded under this grant are available on the [DHS website](#).

Treatment services include medication-assisted treatment, all levels of outpatient counseling, residential treatment, and detoxification services. The type and level of service provided is based on comprehensive assessment of the patient's needs.

Recovery support services include care coordination or case management, peer support services, support groups, recovery coaching, sober living, transportation, and other services people may need to remain successful in their journey to wellness.

State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant funds covered treatment and recovery support services for people who were uninsured or underinsured. Table 3 shows the number people served in each year of the grant.

**Table 3: Number of People Served\***

	Treatment Services	Recovery Support Services
<b>Year 1</b> (May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018)	740	405
<b>Year 2</b> (May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019)	1,348	1,249

*\*These numbers may be duplicated. People who received recovery services may also have received treatment services. People who received services in year one may also have received services in year two.*

## Project Descriptions

### Naloxone Training and Distribution

This was one of the prevention strategies funded by the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant. It was not highlighted in the reports focused on the prevention strategies funded by this grant.

The focus of this project was to equip people at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or those who may witness an opioid overdose with naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug. In partnership with community-based coalitions funded through the prevention strategy of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin trained 13,395 people on how to identify an opioid overdose and use naloxone. Each person trained was given an opioid overdose reversal kit that included doses of naloxone. This project resulted in 3,308 opioid overdose reversals. This project was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

*Total annual budget: This project shared funding with other prevention strategies. The total amount allocated annually to prevention strategies was \$730,000.*

### Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline

The focus of this project was to create a free and confidential resource for people to contact to learn about substance use treatment and recovery services in their community. Through a partnership with 211 Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline began taking calls October 22, 2018. From the launch date through April 2019, 2,865 people contacted the helpline by calling 211 or 833-944-4673, texting their ZIP code to 898211, or using the live chat option at [addictionhelpwi.org](http://addictionhelpwi.org). This project was implemented in year two of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

*Total annual budget: \$400,000*

### Hospital-Based Recovery Support

The focus of this project was to help opioid overdose survivors seeking help at a hospital emergency room avoid another overdose by connecting them with people living in recovery from opioid addiction. These peer specialists or recovery coaches were trained to offer support focused on helping the opioid overdose survivor stay engaged in treatment. Known as ED2 Recovery, this project was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

Table 4 lists the 12 organizations contracted through Wisconsin Voices for Recovery to provide this program at 26 hospital emergency rooms.

**Table 4: ED2 Recovery Organizations and Partners**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Hospital Partner</b>
Aspirus Riverview Hospitals and Clinics/Three Bridges Recovery	Aspirus Riverview Hospital (Wisconsin Rapids)
Bellin Health/DarJune Foundation	Bellin Hospital (Green Bay)
Community Awareness and Recovery Environment (CARE) for Dodge County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam</li> <li>• St. Agnes Hospital (Fond du Lac)</li> <li>• Waupun Memorial Hospital</li> </ul>
Coulee Council on Addictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center (La Crosse)</li> <li>• Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare (La Crosse)</li> </ul>
Dave Gallup Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Memorial Hospital (Fort Atkinson)</li> <li>• Watertown Regional Medical Center</li> </ul>
Elevate	Froedtert West Bend Hospital
Just Listen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aurora Medical Center - Hartford</li> <li>• Aurora Medical Center - Summit</li> <li>• Aurora Medical Center - Grafton</li> </ul>
New Horizons North	Memorial Medical Center (Ashland)
Project WisHope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – Franklin Campus</li> <li>• Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – St. Joseph Campus (Milwaukee)</li> <li>• Ascension St. Francis Hospital (Milwaukee)</li> </ul>
Rock Valley Community Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital - Janesville</li> <li>• Mercyhealth Hospital (Janesville)</li> </ul>
Safe Communities Madison/Dane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital - Madison</li> <li>• SSM Health Emergency Center (Sun Prairie)</li> <li>• UW Health University Hospital (Madison)</li> </ul>
Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family Memorial Hospital (Manitowoc)</li> <li>• Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center</li> <li>• Aurora Medical Center – Two Rivers</li> <li>• HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital - Sheboygan</li> </ul>

From October 2017 through April 2019, ED2 Recovery staff spent nearly 6,000 hours working with people seeking recovery following a visit to a participating hospital’s emergency room due to an opioid overdose. Table 4 shows the number of people served by this project.

**Table 5: Number Served – ED2 Recovery\***

	<b>People Served</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	90
<b>Year 2</b>	527
<b>TOTAL</b>	617

*\*The recovery support services data in Table 3 includes the data in this table.*

*Total annual budget: \$1,400,000*

### **County and Tribal Waitlists and Unmet Treatment Needs**

The focus of this project was to reduce or eliminate waitlists and unmet needs for opioid-specific services. This included expanding each community's ability to provide medication-assisted treatment using at least two forms of Food and Drug Administration-approved medication for this service. This project was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant. All counties and tribes that applied to participate in this project received funding.

- Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Year 2 Only)
- Brown County (Year 2 Only)
- Dane County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Dodge County (Year 1 Only)
- Douglas County (Year 2 Only)
- Green County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Ho-Chunk Nation (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Jefferson County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Kenosha County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- La Crosse County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Marquette County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Manitowoc County (Year 1 Only)
- Milwaukee County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Monroe County (Year 2 Only)
- Portage County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Racine County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Sheboygan County (Year 1 and Year 2)
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Year 1 Only)
- St. Croix County (Year 2 Only)
- Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians (Year 2 Only)
- Waukesha County (Year 1 and Year 2 Only)
- Winnebago County (Year 1 and Year 2 Only)

*Total annual budget: \$2,387,092*

### **Regional Opioid Treatment Centers**

This focus of this project was to create opioid treatment centers in regions of state with few options for treatment services for opioid use disorder. This project was implemented in year two of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant. The following organizations received funding following a competitive application process.

- **Family Health/La Clinica:** Family Health/La Clinica provided services from offices in Friendship and Wautoma. Each client was assigned a specialist to provide support and assist with coordinating treatment and recovery services.
- **Opioid Treatment Center:** County behavioral health agencies in Dodge and Fond du Lac counties joined together to create this program. Services were provided from offices in both counties. Each client is assigned a specialist to provide support and assist with coordinating treatment and recovery services

*Total annual budget: \$1,008,000*

### **Medication-Assisted Treatment Implementation and Expansion**

The focus of this project was to expand access to medication-assisted treatment through the development, implementation, and enhancement of medication-assisted treatment programs. This project was implemented in year two of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant. The following organizations received funding following a competitive application process.

- **Milwaukee County** worked with a hospital to provide immediate assessment and linkage to opioid treatment services for people who visited the emergency room with symptoms of opioid abuse.
- **Forest County Potawatomi** expanded their full continuum of care for people with an opioid-use disorder to include medication-assisted treatment, all levels of outpatient substance use disorder services, and care coordination/case management.
- **Southwestern Community Action Program** partnered with two counties to provide peer support and provide transportation to treatment-related services.
- **Tellurian UCAN** developed a program to provide access to two forms of medication-assisted treatment while also providing care coordination through the use of a community recovery specialist along with outpatient counseling.

*Total annual budget: \$1,000,000*

### **Recovery Corps**

The focus of this project was to support recovery coach training for AmeriCorps participants working with the Marshfield Clinic Health System's Center for Community Health Advancement. This project was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

*Total annual budget: \$60,000*

### **Workforce Development**

The focus of this project was to build the skills of the workforce to provide evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

**Conferences.** The focus of this initiative was to host events open to all professionals working to address Wisconsin's opioid epidemic. This initiative was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

- **Wisconsin's Opioid Crisis: A Trauma-Informed Response:** The 2018 event was held in Wauwatosa, with about 250 people in attendance. The 2019 event was held in Green Bay, with about 600 people in attendance. The presentations provided information on the connection between trauma and substance use disorders.
- **Opioid Forum:** The 2018 event was held in Milwaukee, with about 500 people in attendance. The 2019 event was held in Green Bay, with about 600 people in attendance. The presentations provided information on best practices regarding prevention, treatment, and recovery services. There was also a DATA waiver training attended by 31 prescribers. This was part of an ongoing effort to increase the number of prescribers able to offer buprenorphine.

**Project ECHO.** The focus of this initiative was to create and launch a tele-mentoring model known as Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). Project ECHO was developed by the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. The Project ECHO created in Wisconsin under the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis focused exclusively on strategies to treat people with opioid use disorder. It connected specialist teams at an academic hub with primary care clinicians practicing around the state. The UW-Madison Department of Family Medicine and Community Health organized free, monthly videoconferences that included discussions on best practices and case

consultations. This initiative was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

***Trainings.*** The focus of this initiative was to support all grantees in the implementation of their projects by providing targeted trainings on topics such as appropriate levels of care, data collection and reporting, medication-assisted treatment, and trauma-informed care. DHS staff provided these targeted trainings. This initiative was implemented in both years of the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.

*Total annual budget: \$270,000*

## **Implementation Challenges**

The State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant bolstered Wisconsin's efforts to address the opioid epidemic and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities. While DHS was anticipating this funding, much of the work to award grants to community partners could not be done until the funding was awarded. This work included developing and issuing announcements regarding funding opportunities and reviewing the responses to these announcements. It took several months to issue grant funds to community partners. Moreover, it took community partners time to develop programs. This included time to develop the capacity to provide more forms of medication-assisted treatment. Before this grant, most counties and tribes were prepared to provide injectable naltrexone only. Thanks to this grant, counties and tribes were able to provide access to additional forms of medication-assisted treatment. However, many of the programs that received funding under this grant faced significant challenges recruiting clinical staff. This limited the ability of these programs to fully serve their communities. Finally, many of the programs also covered large service territories. This created access challenges for some clients due to the lack of reliable transportation.