

Vermont's Opioid STR Grant
Year 2 Program Narrative
May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

The goal of Vermont's Opioid STR grant is to expand access to opioid use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services for Vermonters, and reduce opioid-related overdose deaths. Year 2 Opioid STR funding of \$2 million allows Vermont to enhance and expand Year 1 implementation efforts, and initiate new innovative pilots to address Vermont's opioid crisis.

1. Law Enforcement Drug Disposal Pilot Project \$100,000 – Continue the Pilot program to build on the early successes that include mobilization of the community and law enforcement working together to collect medications. Data and trends on amounts of collected medications and numbers of participating partners will allow Vermont to identify improvements and maximize effectiveness of this initiative in Year 2.
2. Drug Collection and Disposal Kiosk Liners \$14,000 – Participating pharmacies have identified the cost of the replacement liners as a barrier to installing kiosks. (A \$140 replacement liner includes pickup and incineration of the medications.) Year 1 funding paid for kiosks in 15 different sites and 4 replacement liners for each kiosk. Year 2 funding will purchase the needed replacement liners for the 25 facilities that will have received kiosks through this program.
3. Drug Disposal System Evaluation \$77,000 – Year 2 funding will be utilized to contract with an independent evaluator to design, implement, and evaluate Vermont's overall drug disposal system to determine future directions. This comprehensive evaluation will include the following components: the Drug Disposal Pilot Project Year 1 results, implementation and installation of drug disposal kiosks in pharmacies and hospitals, mail-back envelope dissemination, a social media campaign currently under development, and the creation of a specific Drug Disposal webpage on the Vermont Department of Health's website. This evaluation will inform the direction of the drug disposal system moving forward and whether certain projects, such as the pilot project, should be continued.
4. Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) \$10,318
The Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) 40-hour curriculum is designed to provide up-to-date, evidence-based information to professionals interested in becoming a Certified Prevention Professional. Vermont offers this training once a year, although demand has been increasing over the past several years. Year 2 funding will allow Vermont to implement an additional 40-hour SAPST training free of charge to all prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery professionals.
5. Pharmacy Students Drug Collection Analysis \$20,000 – While the Drug Disposal Pilot Project has collected over 7,000 pounds of medication to date, the classification of these medications is still unknown due to DEA regulations prohibiting all but law enforcement from evaluating the disposed medication. With Vermont's new Opioid Prescribing Rule and increased media attention on safe use of opioid prescriptions, the Vermont Department of Health seeks to

identify the type and classifications of the medications collected. Utilizing the Drug Disposal Pilot Project and students from Vermont's Albany College of Pharmacy, Vermont will review and identify a representative sample of medications taken from each region and categorize based on substance. The funding will be provided to the Albany College of Pharmacy to work with professors and students to conduct research under the supervision of the Lamoille County Sheriff Department.

6. Vermont Adult Technical Education Association \$37,000 – The Vermont Department of Health will continue to support opioid community education through the 17 Vermont Adult Technical Education Centers that cover the entire state. Year 2 funding will ensure that the Opioid Addiction 3-class workshop will be presented twice in Vermont's 17 Adult Technical Education Centers, given that waitlists are expected in the first round of workshops. The course curriculum incorporates achievement-based learning objectives and includes interactive learning tasks. Vermont Department of Health Prevention Consultants will co-lead these workshops in their respective counties.
7. Vermont Parent Child Centers \$100,000 – Year 2 funding will allow for continued training of Parent Child Center staff in the use of evidence-based screening tools such as UNCOPE and CRAFFT. Individuals who screen positive will be referred for services. Evidence-based family education substance use prevention parenting programs such as Nurturing Families will be implemented in all 15 Parent Child Centers.
8. Vermont Recovery Network - Telephone Recovery Supports \$50,000
Year 2 will provide funding for continuation and enhancements to this successful program of telephone-based peer recovery support services for individuals transitioning out of residential SUD treatment. Additional trainings will increase and sustain the Vermont Recovery Network of volunteer peers. The project includes continuation funding for two support staff, evaluation capacity, a software license for the TRSS program, and supervision of the volunteers.
9. SUD Centralized Intake & Resource Center \$500,000
Opioid STR funds will continue to support the design, development, marketing, implementation and maintenance of a statewide SUD Centralized Intake and Resource Center whose core elements include:
 - Resource Website
 - Call Center for information, referral and appointments
 - Education Supports
 - Outreach and case management

The system will allow Vermonters to call one number to receive needed information on level of care, residential placement options, treatment opportunities, and appointments with providers. The system will be overseen by an IT Project Manager and staffed by SUD professionals.

10. Vermont Recovery Network - Recovery Services in Vermont Hospital Emergency Rooms
\$500,000

The Vermont Department of Health is currently funding the Vermont Recovery Network to place a peer recovery support model in three Hospital Emergency Rooms across the state. (UVM, CVMC, Bennington) Year 2 funding will include the expansion of this model to two additional hospital sites. The model includes two FTE peer recovery support staff in each Emergency Department, as well as a program coordinator to provide supervision and program management of the Recovery Support staff. The Vermont Recovery Network will use an Operations and Network Coordinator to manage these pilot programs with oversight from the Vermont Department of Health staff. This peer recovery support model connects individuals in hospital emergency rooms experiencing an opioid overdose with recovery services delivered by certified peer recovery coaches. Prior to being released from the hospital emergency room, a peer recovery coach will work with the individual to offer recovery supports and resources to help maintain their recovery.

11. Cultural Brokers \$80,000

Year 2 funding will support the Vermont Cultural Brokers' program which provides integrated prevention, education, and early intervention services to Vermont's New Americans with and at risk for developing substance use disorders. Six Cultural Brokers represent the immigrant and refugee communities they serve (e.g. Somali, Bantu, Congolese, Bhutanese, Nepali) and provide effective liaisons with schools, clinics, community agencies, medical providers, mental health agencies, Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement. Cultural Brokers build trusting relationships with Vermont's New Americans in identifying and addressing substance abuse problems. They also provide educational opportunities and information on available SUD community resources.

12. Vermont Recovery Network – Recovery Coaches/Pathway Guides \$85,947

Vermont will support six Recovery Coaches/Pathway Guides across the state at .25 FTE each. Recovery Coaches will form partnerships with individuals to: create a vision for their recovery; identify and remove barriers to recovery; navigate through the human services system; access community resources; and connect with recovery services including treatment facilities, recovery centers, and mutual support groups. Pathways Guides work out of local Recovery Centers and Opioid Treatment Hubs (clinics) to engage people who want to receive Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opiate addiction. Pathway Guides also introduce participants to existing Peer Recovery Support Services available in their community.

13. Employment Services Pilot Program \$255,000

For individuals with substance use conditions, work is often key to recovery. Employment counseling is an effective way to support people in finding and maintaining employment, and reducing or eliminating SUD relapse. Vermont will use Year 2 funds to develop a supported employment program in three regions of the state. Implementation will occur in the local Recovery Centers and Opioid Treatment Hubs (clinics). Employment Specialists will provide recovering individuals with the necessary skills training, and will work with employers in the community to establish relationships and develop agreements for employing individuals enrolled in the program. The Employment Specialists will also provide employers with support and training on employing individuals in recovery, as well as employer incentives. Each region will collect specific progress and outcomes data.

14. SAMHSA “Treatment on Demand” Pilot Evaluation \$49,053

Treatment on Demand is an innovative pilot in Central Vermont which provides ready access (within 72 hours) to Medication Assisted Treatment for people with OUD who have agreed to participate in treatment. Vermont will use Year 2 funds to hire a consultant to produce an evaluation of the Treatment on Demand pilot.

15. Community Prevention Capacity Building Planning Grants \$60,000 – Year 2 funding will continue Community Prevention Capacity Building grants through another competitive cycle and/or continuation of those current grantees who show promise. The new funding of six awards for \$10,000 each will be coordinated with and through the lead or sub grantee of Vermont’s Regional Prevention Partnerships.