

# State Opioid Response Prevention Update (as of 6/4/2021)

Greetings State Opioid Response (SOR) Prevention Grantees, I have a lot of updates for you so I will launch right in!

## SOR Reporting

Thank you for your SOR Mid-Year reports (including the Survey Monkey and your expenditures for October through March)! OMNI and I are collaborating on how we can assist with the future support needs you identified as well as the challenges you discussed. The SOR End-of-Year report (with a very similar format to the Mid-Year) will be due approximately October 15. We'll provide the survey and format requirements 2-3 weeks in advance of the due date. Also, we appreciate you keeping up with your PBPS reporting. The data is used for the SOR Quarterly and Annual Reports prepared by OMNI, shared in updates with SAMHSA, used as an element for funding decisions, and more!



## Budgeting & Spending Funds by September 29, 2021

I hope that the mid-year report was helpful for assessing your SOR activities and spending. **All SOR funds must be expended by September 29, 2021.** Many CSBs noted that the bulk of their spending will occur this summer. Two tips: 1. make your purchases as early as possible in case there are unanticipated delays or if costs are less than expected, and 2. have a plan B for spending (maybe move funds from a media campaign to safe storage and disposal, etc.).

**FAQ: Do we need approval to move funds from one SOR budget line item to another?**

**A: In line with the goal of flexibility during COVID, it is allowable to move funds within your SOR budget. Please note the excerpted statement highlighted below is in the SOR II Prevention Exhibit D. The intention was for grantees to email me for changes greater than 25% of the total budget for existing line items, to request new line items, or additional funding.**

G. **"Use of Funds:** The CSB may not use the funds provided under this Agreement for any purpose other than as described herein and allowable to carry out the purposes and activities of the Program or Service. ...The CSB shall expend all funds by September 29, 2021. ...**SOR prevention funds are restricted and shall be used only for approved SOR prevention strategies (from the CSB's approved SOR Logic Model).** Changes to the budget (greater than a variance of 25 percent among approved budget items) and/or requests for additional funding must be sent via an email to the SOR Prevention Coordinator."

I'll tweak the language in future Exhibit Ds to make it clearer! Please reach out if you have any questions.

## Now Accepting Requests for Additional SOR Funding (second round)

Last month, we approved additional SOR Prevention funding for 13 CSBs. This was done through a "One Time Funds Amendment" to the original SOR II Prevention Exhibit D. I am now accepting requests for a second round. **Please submit your requests no later than June 18, 2021!**

Requests must include: 1.) \$ amount requested, 2.) a draft budget detailing how the money will be expended, 3.) a brief narrative describing how the funds will support a strategy from your approved SOR Logic Model, 4.) if this is a new initiative/strategy, describe how it will augment your current SOR work, 5.) amount/percent of your SOR funds expended through the date of your request. The minimum request amount is \$5,000; the maximum is \$100,000. Regional requests are welcome. Please use the email subject line "Additional SOR Prevention Funding Request." I will acknowledge receipt of your request within two business days.

## Statewide Media Campaign Summary & Invitation to Join the Advisory Group

Planning is underway for a SOR-funded statewide media campaign that will promote wellness by connecting with communities to develop authentic messages that resonate with the focus audience. OBHW and OMNI are co-managing this project with support from many of you serving on the Media Campaign Advisory Group. After reviewing pertinent data, the advisory group identified the primary focus audience as individuals age 18-34 with a special emphasis on communities of

color. The project is currently in the Campaign Research phase which will include a survey to learn more about how the focus audience consumes media and views wellness, a PhotoVoice project for community-based participatory research, key informant/focus group interviews, and selection of a media consultant. The next phase of the project timeline is Message Development followed by Pilot Testing and Refinement. We anticipate campaign launch by approximately late 2021 or early 2022. This project is heavily focused on Behavioral Health Equity and community engagement.

If you are interested in serving in some capacity on this Advisory Group or would like to learn more about this project, please contact Rebecca Larson, the OMNI lead for this project, at [rlarson@omni.org](mailto:rlarson@omni.org).

## **Behavioral Health Equity (BHE) Summit and BHE Mini-Grants**

On May 13, 2021, we presented the third annual, first virtual, Behavioral Health Equity Summit. Ivan Juzang of MEE Productions presented a model for community engagement to build ongoing relationships with hard-to-reach populations, including those historically mistreated or underserved by the government.

Each year at the summit, we invite CSBs to apply for BHE Mini-Grants. BHE Consultant Glencora Gudger is currently working on 13 BHE mini-grant applications from 12 CSBs. BHE mini-grants are awarded to CSBs to perform equity oriented activities and programming. Funds can be used in innovative ways to meet the professional development and community needs of the populations being served. Grants must explicitly address the needs of marginalized populations including: communities of color, LGBTQ+, immigrants and refugees, non-native English speakers, persons with disabilities, and neurodiverse individuals. Other special populations served include veterans, and grandparents (or others) caretaking/raising children. If you haven't had a chance to apply for a BHE grant previously, there will be another chance next year! Please contact [Glencora.Gudger@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:Glencora.Gudger@dbhds.virginia.gov) if you have questions.

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Project**

Under the direction of OBHW Behavioral Health Wellness Consultant/ACEs Lead Keith Cartwright, six CSBs (Eastern Shore, Fairfax-Falls Church, Highlands, Rappahannock Area, Rockbridge Area and Southside) are assisting with a SOR-funded project to build the ACEs awareness and prevention infrastructure in Virginia.

## **New Contact for REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education**

Thanks to all of you that are being creative with your delivery of REVIVE! Training! The new contact for REVIVE! Is REVIVE! Administrative Support Specialist Tiffani Wells. She can be reached at [tiffani.wells@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:tiffani.wells@dbhds.virginia.gov).

## **Refugees and Immigrants: How Can We Assist?**

A group of prevention leaders with Refugee Resettlement Offices in their respective catchment areas are collaborating to enhance communication and provide information to refugees and immigrants. Refugee Behavioral Health Coordinator Eva P. Stitt, PhD is leading this group. A project is underway to translate Lock & Talk materials into multiple languages, to accompany distribution of medication lock boxes. You'll hear more about this in the coming months.

## **Training Series on Group Facilitation Skills**

In March and April, Collective Health Impact, LLC founder [Erima Fobbs](#) presented a training series on group facilitation skills. Erima is also assisting with the Statewide Media Campaign planning and roll out. Watch for new training opportunities coming up next fiscal year. Erima can be reached at [EFobbs@collectivehealthimpact.com](mailto:EFobbs@collectivehealthimpact.com)

## **Partnerships with Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA) and CADCA**

We established a contract this year with CCoVA to enhance our partnership work and next year we'll host another CADCA Virginia Mini-Academy. We continue to encourage membership and training offered by CCoVA and CADCA. SOR Prevention funds may be used for these purposes as coalition capacity building is a foundational SOR Prevention strategy.

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We have a busy and exciting summer ahead. My gratitude and respect to you for all of the work you are doing! Please reach out with your questions, suggestions and concerns. And remember to take time for self-care.

Best wishes, *Jennifer*

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