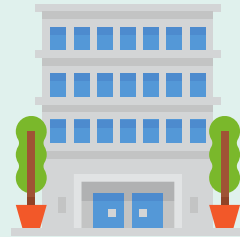# VIRGINIA'S
4 YEARS of SOR

The State Opioid Response (SOR) grant has been funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) since 2018. Virginia utilizes these funds to address opioid and stimulant use issues in communities across the state. This report was prepared by OMNI Institute, Virginia's evaluation partner for the SOR grant. For more information, please contact SORsupport@omni.org.

Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health &
Developmental Services

OMNI

Build Capacity

Strong community partnerships are the key to an effective response to the opioid crisis in Virginia.

As of 2023, Virginia SOR funds...

40 **Community Services Boards (CSBs)** that offer **direct services for substance use and opioid use disorder programs.**

- Prevention Services
- Treatment Services
- Harm Reduction Services
- Recovery Services

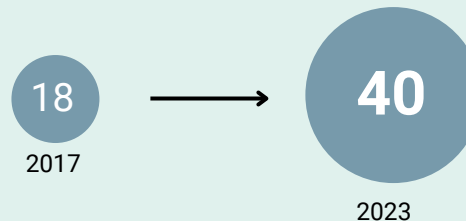**4** **Community-based organizations** + **5** **Health Districts** received SOR funds via the Virginia Department of Health to provide **peer recovery support services.**

Medication for Opioid Use Disorders

SOR funds have increased the availability for medication for opioid use disorders (MOUD) services.

Since 2017, the number of CSBs offering MOUD services more than doubled.

18 2017 → 40 2023

Staffing

SOR funding has increased staffing and training opportunities across prevention, treatment, and recovery programming.

Reported enough training to do their jobs

35% Before SOR → 79% After 4 Years of SOR

Reported adequate staffing

31% Before SOR → 54% After 4 Years of SOR

Community Coalitions

CSBs currently lead 44 coalitions, made up of multi-disciplinary and cross-sector community led groups, to implement prevention strategies and mobilize the community. Most coalitions focus on media campaigns, drug supply reduction, and increasing public awareness of the risks of opioid use.

Generate and Sustain Critical Programs

SOR funding has enabled Virgina communities to build new initiatives and create lasting programs.

Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC)

SOR funding enabled the first pilot of MOUD services in DOC facilities, which proved successful and is now provided as part of the general operating budget for DOC. Other SOR-funded services provided by DOC include:

Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiatives (MATRI)
13 piloted sites

Naloxone Take Home initiative
1,400 Naloxone kits distributed since September 2020

Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR)

With support from SOR funds, the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR) certifies recovery residences across Virginia, denoting safe and healthy residential environments for sustaining recovery. In addition, VARR has partnered with Recovery Outcomes, Inc. to implement a comprehensive data collection and recovery planning platform that is used in all VARR-certified residences to support individual recovery planning and analyze recovery progress and outcomes. **Results from data collection show significant increases in employment, engaging in volunteer or service activities for recovery meetings, and education, and increases in sport and leisure activities after engaging in SOR funded recovery housing initiatives.** In 2022, VARR became fully funded by SOR.

Peer Recovery Specialists

The SOR grant is the single largest funder of peer recovery specialists (PRS) in Virginia. PRS have been hired in CSBs, hospitals, the DOC, and community organizations as a result of SOR funds, increasing access to peer support services in many settings and communities. SOR funds have also supported Virginia's Office of Recovery Services to build an online platform that facilitates training registration and certification for individuals seeking to become certified peer recovery specialists.

REVIVE! Trainings and Naloxone Distribution

REVIVE! is the statewide opioid overdose and naloxone education program. Community members, health professionals, law enforcement, and emergency medical service providers across Virginia have taken part in the training.

18,753 people gained skills and knowledge to save a life through *REVIVE!*

53,000 naloxone kits to local health departments, CSBs, harm reduction sites, and law enforcement agencies.

Community Education

4,000+ individuals have received training in Mental Health First Aid and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Suicide Prevention

Lock and Talk strategies that have been supported by SOR include distribution of prescription drug lock boxes, cable gun locks, and trigger locks through 19 CSBs. CSBs have distributed suicide prevention materials and provide suicide prevention trainings.

Expand to New Settings

Community organizations are supporting innovative services throughout Virginia.

Justice Settings

Community organizations are supporting treatment services in justice settings across Virginia. With the support of SOR funds, there are currently 18 CSBs providing treatment services in recovery courts, jails, and some Department of Corrections facilities.

1,513 people received treatment services in justice settings*

*Numbers may include duplicates of individuals who received more than one service or participated in more than one activity over four years of SOR funding.

Collegiate Recovery

SOR funding enabled Rams in Recovery, a model collegiate recovery program based at Virginia Commonwealth University, to share its success and assist other campuses across Virginia in building their own collegiate recovery programs. Programs provide a welcoming space for students and staff in recovery as well as community education and outreach about how to be a recovery ally to all campus and community members.

8 funded programs

3,953 one-on-one meetings

3,049 recovery meetings
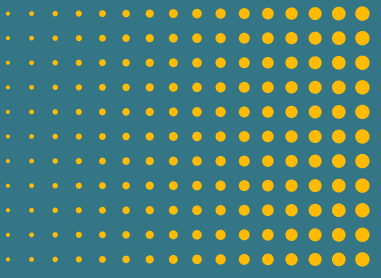
336 events

Rural Services

SOR-funded mobile units providing MOUD services in rural areas across Virginia have further increased access to care and eliminated transportation barriers for many who previously could not reach a traditional clinical setting.

Evaluate and Respond Using Data Driven Approaches

Data-driven decisions build knowledge and guide future programming.

SOR Evaluation

The SOR grant management team has overseen the implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the SOR grant. All funded subrecipients and activities are evaluated through routine data collection paired with ongoing technical assistance. Several reports and real-time dashboards are also in place to monitor the impacts of the grant and effectively direct funds to communities and organizations that are in need.

Framework for Addiction Analysis and Community Transformation (FAACT)

SOR is a partial funder of the FAACT platform which combines data from across a variety of agencies including healthcare, social services, public safety and corrections, drug courts, and community coalitions. This data sharing initiative generates insights about the community factors that contribute to opioid use disorders. FAACT was developed in 2017 to meet the growing need for data-informed solutions to counteract the opioid crisis and has since received two awards for innovative and transformative technology.

Brief Assessment of Recovery Capital (BARC-10)

CSBs and Virginia Department of Health sites participated in a pilot program to utilize the BARC-10 to measure impacts of peer recovery support services on individuals. Data show that recovery capital, a measure of capacity to take on the challenges present in recovery, increased for individuals who engaged in peer support services. The use of this tool and its implementation has been a model for other programs and states and provides a foundation for proving effectiveness in peer support programming. The SOR team was invited to present on the use of the BARC-10 and Virginia's leadership in implementing it at multiple conferences and conducted a training for peer recovery specialists and peer program managers about the results in a webinar facilitated by the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence housed at the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Performance Based Prevention System (PBPS)

PBPS is partially funded and maintained using SOR resources. The PBPS collects data on all prevention related activities CSBs undertake to further their opioid misuse prevention goals. Data includes records of each implementation of a prevention strategy and how many individuals were reached and impacted. The data is then monitored to ensure accuracy, and technical assistance is provided to maintain high data quality.