



Overview of Required HRSA RCORP Implementation Core Activities

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities.

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) led the Iowa OUD Consortium through a one-year planning grant and will now facilitate, over the next three years, the Iowa OUD Consortium's implementation of a set of core SUD/OUD prevention, treatment and recovery activities. The Iowa OUD Consortium will pilot implementation activities in three high-risk Iowa counties and spread identified best practices statewide.

Prevention:

- + Provide culturally appropriate education to improve the understanding of family members, caregivers and the public about evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery strategies for SUD/OUD, and to reduce stigma associated with the disease.
- + Increase and support the use of school and community-based prevention programs that are evidence-based to prevent misuse of opioids and other substances.
- + Identify and screen individuals at risk for SUD/OUD and provide or make referrals to prevention, harm reduction, early intervention, treatment and other support services to minimize the potential for the development of SUD/OUD.
- + Increase access to naloxone within rural service area and provide training on overdose prevention and naloxone administration to ensure that individuals can take the appropriate steps to reverse an overdose.
- + Implement year-round drug take back programs.

Treatment:

- + Screen and make referral to or provide treatment for patients with SUD/OUD who have infectious complications, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and endocarditis, particularly among people who inject drugs.
- + Recruit, train and mentor interdisciplinary teams of SUD/OUD clinical and social service providers who are trained, certified and willing to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT), including both evidence-based behavioral therapy and FDA approved pharmacotherapy.

- + Increase the number of providers and other health and social service professionals who are able to identify and treat SUD/ODD by providing professional development opportunities and recruitment incentives such as, but not limited to, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).
- + Reduce barriers to treatment, including supporting integrated treatment and recovery, coordination with behavioral health, the criminal justice system, dentistry and social services. As appropriate, provide support to at-risk populations using approaches that minimize stigma and other barriers to care.
- + Strengthen collaboration with law enforcement and first responders to enhance their capability to respond and/or provide emergency treatment to those with SUD/ODD.
- + Train providers, administrative staff and other relevant stakeholders to optimize reimbursement for treatment encounters through proper coding and billing across insurance types to ensure financial sustainability of services.
- + Enable individuals, families and caregivers to find, access and navigate evidence-based, affordable treatments for SUD/ODD, as well as home and community-based services and social supports.

Recovery:

- + Enhance discharge coordination for people leaving inpatient treatment facilities and/or the criminal justice system who require linkages to home and community-based services and social supports, including case management, housing, employment, food assistance, transportation, medical and behavioral health services, faith-based organizations and sober/transitional living facilities.
- + Expand peer workforce and programming as interventionists in various settings, including hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement departments, jails, SUD/ODD treatment programs and in the community.
- + Support the development of recovery communities, recovery coaches and recovery community organizations to expand the availability of and access to recovery support services.