



State Opioid Response (SOR II)
*A Transforming Approach to Opioid Prevention:
Developing Systemic Change in Schools*
District - Invitation to Apply for Technical Assistance

SOR II GRANT OVERVIEW-

The State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) was awarded the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 2021 State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. This grant “aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment using the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorders (OUD).” The CT SOR initiatives are intended to supplement current activities pertaining to opioid misuse undertaken by DMHAS through its previously awarded SAMHSA State Targeted Response (STR) grant as well as utilize recommendations from the CT Opioid Response (CORE) Plan, the CT Alcohol and Drug Policy (ADPC), and feedback from a number of consumers, providers and other stakeholders. One such recommendation is bringing awareness of the dangers of opioid use directly into the classroom for students in grades K-12. This grant is a collaborative effort between DMHAS and the State Education Resource Center (SERC).

A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW

The State Education Resource Center is offering a two-year opportunity for Districts/Schools to implement an action plan for Opioid and Substance Misuse Prevention. Coaching and Technical Assistance (TA) will be offered to support implementation of an action plan using the Guiding Curriculum and Tools as a follow-up to completion of the Online Course ([Universal Opioid and Other Substance Misuse Prevention Planning: Resources for K-12 Educators and Planners](https://21-55-102.eventbrite.com/) register: <https://21-55-102.eventbrite.com/>).

Selected districts will be eligible for a stipend of \$9,000.00 in year one and \$2,500.00 year two, to support implementation of action-planning and associated costs. (Selection Date June 2021)

B. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

"Selection criteria for District teams and two schools participating in action planning and implementation using the Guiding Curriculum and Tools: Criteria include:



- 1.) Completion of Prevention Online Course and Readiness Assessment Checklist/Worksheet
- 2.) Commitment to take the Prevention Course in April and/or May 2021 (**completed by Tuesday, June 1, 2021**).
- 3.) Submission of application for TA with completed Readiness Tool, (**DUE Tuesday, June 1, 2021**)
- 4.) Commitment of 2 participating schools to engage in Action Planning, June-August 2021
- 5.) Commitment to implement 2 items on the Action Plan, September 2021-September 2022
- 6.) Commitment to participate in data collection to assess capacity and readiness for prevention practice implementation, collaboration and sustainability efforts
- 7.) Participation in the Youth Prevention Conference, May 20, 2021 (Optional)

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Districts will select 2 participating schools – Elementary, Middle and/or High School – for implementing the Guiding Curriculum and Tools

TA: Participate in up to 14 days of technical assistance/coaching from SERC to support in the implementation of the universal opioid planning process presented in the online course.

- District – 4 days of Technical Assistance –
- Schools will receive 5 days of Technical Assistance
- Consultation topics may include a review of the planning process and/or materials, project start-up activities such as recruiting a core planning team and assessing readiness, and questions regarding substance misuse and prevention science.
- TA will be provided through virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom, Google Meet) to support school districts' (K-12) implementation of Substance Misuse Prevention Guiding Document and Tools.
- Participate in Data Collection

D. SCHOOL-BASED ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION: 5 days per school

- June-August 2021: School teams will participate in virtual TA/Coaching to support action planning.
- School teams will identify 2 action items to implement and share plan with district lead/team for approval.
- September 2021-September 2022: School teams will participate in virtual coaching/TA and plan implementation of Substance Misuse Prevention Guiding Curriculum and Tools.
- Participate in data collection with UConn

E. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The completed application packet must be emailed to SERC no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1 2021**. It is expected that the 2 selected districts will be identified by June 21, 2021.



Electronic Copy Emailed to: need online link for our website

Subject: “Technical Assistance for A Transforming Approach to Opioid Prevention”

Questions regarding specifics of the grant and the professional learning and expectations should be directed to Paquita Jarman-Smith, Consultant, jarmansmith@ctserc.org.

Questions regarding the application process and/or submission should be directed to Emma Velasquez, Project Specialist, velasquez@ctserc.org.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION

District proposals will be reviewed through a multi-step process as follows:

- 1) Screening – Applications will be reviewed and scored by committee, including various grant partners as feasible, including DMHAS and SERC;
- 2) Verification Call – A pre-arranged conference call of highest-ranked applicants may be conducted by SERC (districts will be contacted to schedule); and
- 3) Selection – DMHAS and SERC will select up to 2 districts for the 2021-2022 Technical Assistance.

It is the policy of the State Education Resource Center (SERC) that no person shall be discriminated against or excluded from participation in any SERC programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, sex/gender, intellectual disability, physical disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Inquiries regarding SERC's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to Michelle Weaver, SERC Counsel, at weaver@ctserc.org.