



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

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) 2018 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) to:

- Provide a comprehensive system of support to two school districts on opioid misuse prevention.
- Facilitate, coach, and provide professional learning and technical assistance on key principles of multi-tiered systems of support in relation to opioid prevention:
 - universal substance misuse prevention practices,
 - partnering and collaborating with students, families, and communities,
 - identifying and referring students/families for intensive support,
 - establishing systems of data collection, and
 - identifying age-appropriate prevention strategies.
- Develop and/or adapt an age-appropriate, research-based Opioid Misuse Prevention Guiding Curriculum (K-12th grade) that can be used by districts across the state according to their demographical and programmatic needs.

Program Outcomes:

- Encourage networking of all stakeholders involved in opioid misuse prevention efforts
- Develop intentional programmatic professional support systems
- Application of knowledge to critically review current policies, procedures, and practices
- Outline sustainability and capacity building across the school district
- Build capacity of school leaders to monitor, support, and sustain fidelity of implementation of new learning
- Support implementation of a research-based opioid misuse prevention curriculum district-wide



Over the course of the grant, the grant will support two (2) districts in implementing a comprehensive multi-tiered system of support around substance misuse prevention. Through site-based professional learning, technical assistance, and coaching, the participating district will work to improve educational outcomes through a continuum of supports for all students. After participating in the grant, districts will effectively implement and sustain all three tiers of substance misuse prevention under Connecticut's Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) framework.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All public school districts, K-12, within the state of CT are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to schools that meet any of the following:

- District is implementing substance misuse prevention efforts
- District is located in a community with a high prevalence of opioid overdoses

A. BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

The Pilot District selected for participation in the two-year grant project (2018-2020) will receive the following supports:

Year I (March 2019-September 2019)

- Ten (10) days of on-site, job-embedded professional learning and technical assistance for the identified district leadership team around strategic planning of multi-tiered supports for substance misuse prevention/supports (anticipated March 2019-September 2019);
- Four (4) days of focus group facilitation based on: current knowledge, perceptions, and substance misuse prevention needs (March 2019-May 2018).
 - Middle and High school students
 - Families
 - Community stakeholders
 - Staff
- Up to five (5) days of on-site, job-embedded technical assistance for school-based teams around assessment of MTSS implementation.
- Attendance and participation in a Statewide Substance Misuse Prevention Summit
- A \$25,000 stipend to defray costs related to substitute coverage, sharing of best practices with the pilot district, and instructional materials.



Year II (October 2019-September 2020)

- Five (5) days of on-site, job-embedded professional learning and technical assistance for the identified district leadership team around strategic planning of multi-tiered supports for substance misuse prevention/supports (anticipated September 2019-June 2020);
- Five (5) days per school (up to 10 schools) of on-site, job-embedded professional learning and technical assistance for the identified school-based teams around contextual fit of district protocol, and supporting a rollout of the Opioid Misuse Prevention Curriculum - scheduling & implementation design and delivery, building advanced supports for substance use, stakeholder engagement in advanced tier meetings, and MTSS Assessment (November 2019-June 2020)
- Three (3) days of professional learning for school staff, families, and community around the topics of:
 - Substance Misuse Prevention best practice
 - Adolescent-Screening Brief Intervention Referral Treatment (A-SBIRT)
 - Opioid Misuse Prevention
- Two (2) days of professional learning for school staff around the implementation of substance misuse prevention curriculum and supports;
- Three (3) days of professional learning for families and community members around the topics of:
 - Substance Misuse Prevention best practice
 - A-SBIRT
 - Opioid Misuse Prevention
- Attendance and participation in a Statewide Showcase
- Pilot Opioid Misuse Prevention Guiding Curriculum (K-12)
- A \$25,000 stipend to defray costs related to substitute coverage and instructional materials

In addition, the participant district will complete the following at mutually agreed-upon times:

- Substance Use Data;
- Annual facilitated assessment of a multi-tiered system of support framework district wide

B. DESCRIPTION OF PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Phase I: Exploration, Installation, and Pilot Implementation

- During Phase I, using CT's SRBI Framework, the district team will be provided with technical assistance around the implementation of a Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) for substance misuse prevention, assessment, and supports. On-site, job-embedded technical assistance/coaching will be provided to facilitate strategic decision-making regarding implementation of a continuum of supports. Identification and development of advanced tiered systems and practices, along with community collaborations, will be explored. This includes, but is not limited to, assessing current structures and practices in place that support students with substance misuse patterns. The grant will work to strengthen the skills and capacity of district and school leadership to ensure fidelity and sustainability of implementation.



Phase II: Full Implementation

- Phase II of the grant will provide school-based teams with professional learning around the implementation of the district-designed MTSS protocol and the Opioid Misuse Prevention Guiding Curriculum. Ongoing support for school-based facilitators/coaches will foster sustainability of the project beyond the life of the grant.

C. SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND PREPARING THE APPLICATION

The grant requires the district to commit to two years of training to implement the multi-tiered substance misuse prevention framework. In addition, selected schools will be subject to periodic data reviews and will be required to submit requested data related to substance use data and school.

In order to assess the school’s readiness for participation in the grant, the application focuses on those items that predict successful implementation and sustainability. The application and evaluation process will occur in two parts.

PART ONE

Interested districts will be asked to complete an application and provide supporting documentation. See the accompanying **2019 Application**. Two impartial reviewers will score each received **2019 Application**.

PART TWO

The accepted district and SERC will sign a Memorandum of Agreement regarding services to be provided, scheduling of training and technical assistance, and stipend payments.

D. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The completed application packet must be emailed to SERC no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019**. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 25, 2019. It is expected that the district will be identified by March 1, 2019.

Electronic Copy Emailed to:

Bianca Irizarry, Project Support Specialist

irizarry@ctserc.org

Subject: A Transforming Approach to Opioid Prevention

Questions regarding specifics of the grant and the professional learning and expectations should be directed to Amanda Pickett, Consultant, at 860.632.1485 x303 or via email at pickett@ctserc.org.

Questions regarding the application process and/or submission should be directed to Bianca Irizarry, Project Support Specialist, at 860.632.1485 x216 or via email at irizarry@ctserc.org.



E. PROPOSAL 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 the 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 2018-2020 grant.

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.