

# Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program

## Introduction

The opioid crisis is a public health emergency that threatens the well-being of individuals who abuse drugs and the safety of communities. It is impacting first responders, the criminal justice system, child welfare and foster care, and behavioral health systems. Responding to this epidemic is one of the U.S. Department of Justice's top priorities.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (COAP) was developed as part of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) legislation. COAP's purpose is to provide financial and technical assistance to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic. The Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) has been incorporated into the FY2019 COAP solicitation. The purpose of the Harold Rogers PDMP is to improve collaboration and strategic decision making among regulatory and law enforcement agencies and public health entities to address prescription drug and opioid abuse, to save lives, and to reduce crime. Since 2017, BJA has supported innovative work in more than 200 COAP sites.

## About BJA's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program

Within the criminal justice system, there are numerous opportunities to link individuals to substance abuse treatment services and recovery supports and prevent future criminal activity. These points range from pre-arrest during an individual's initial interactions with law enforcement to post-arrest when individuals charged with nonviolent offenses may be connected with treatment interventions in lieu of incarceration or during incarceration or reentry into the community.

### The goals of COAP are to:

- Promote public safety and support access to treatment and recovery services in the criminal justice system.

Federal Funding of BJA's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program	FY2017	\$13 million
	FY2018	\$145 million
	FY2019	\$157 million

- Strengthen the collection and sharing of data across systems to understand and address the impact of the opioid epidemic.
- Align and maximize resources across systems and leverage diverse program funding.
- Prevent opioid misuse and addiction.

### COAP supports activities that:

- Divert nonviolent drug offenders from prosecution and connect individuals to treatment services.
- Increase alternatives to incarceration and improve access to quality treatment for the criminal justice population.
- Expand evidence-based treatment in jails and prisons and supporting services upon reentry.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone to at-risk populations and law enforcement and first responders.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination and increase capacity to develop effective plans to address the problem.
- Increase the use of linked data sets to improve knowledge of trends, respond rapidly to emerging drug trends, and focus resources on high-risk populations.
- Support the development and dissemination of research examining opioid policies and new models of interventions.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at the state and local levels.
- Integrate the child welfare, public safety, and behavioral health system to facilitate access to effective services for children and families.

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- Develop models to address the complex and variable nature of rural and tribal opioid use and increasing treatment capacity.
- Strengthen our nation's Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.
- Train law enforcement and other first responders, criminal justice professionals, and behavioral health providers to identify and effectively respond to individuals with opioid use disorders.

## BJA's COAP Grant Awards

### In FY2017 and FY2018 combined:

- 77 grant awards supported increased access to naloxone.
- 49 grant awards established or expanded pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion programs for individuals who commit low level, nonviolent offenses. This includes establishing a coordinated multidisciplinary response team that includes law enforcement and other first responders, treatment providers, and/or peer recovery specialists.
- 48 grant awards established or expanded court-based or prosecutor-based programs for low-level, nonviolent offenders.
- 29 grant awards implemented or expanded evidence-based treatment in jails and prisons and support services upon reentry.
- 43 grant awards expanded models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at the state and local levels.
- 9 grant awards, cofunded by BJA and the Office for Victims of Crime, provided support for children impacted by the opioid epidemic to help children cope with trauma and build resiliency.
- Building the evidence base for effective opioid interventions is a top priority for BJA. Forty-seven percent (47%) of all COAP grantees in FY2017 and FY2018 included a research partner in their projects.

### Many of the COAP grantees are still in the initial stages of their work. Early results are promising. Among the FY2017 COAP grantee cohort:

- 988 people (friends and family members of opioid users, overdose survivors, general public) received training on the use of naloxone.
- 11 grantees provided recovery support services serving 3,006 people with opioid abuse issues. An additional 439 family members and friends of overdose survivors were referred to services. Ninety-one percent (91%) of opioid users who have been in contact with these programs and have been referred to recovery support services started receiving those services.
- 13 grantees provided substance abuse treatment serving 729 people with opioid abuse issues. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of opioid users who were referred to substance abuse treatment by the COAP-funded programs started receiving those services.

## For more information about COAP

Visit the COAP Resource Center at [www.coapresources.org](http://www.coapresources.org).

The material located in the COAP Resource Center supports effective state, local, and tribal responses to the opioid epidemic. Access and explore:

- Profiles of COAP sites across the nation.
- Descriptions of effective programs being implemented throughout the country.
- Action guides for law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals, policymakers, health-care partners, and community leaders.
- Funding and TTA opportunities.
- Educational COAP materials, including newsletters, no-cost webinars, podcasts, printable fact sheets, and complementary resources from federal agencies and stakeholder partners.

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## About BJA

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov) and follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.