

SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT (SABG)

SABG program's objective is to help plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance abuse. SAMHSA requires that grantees spend no less than 20% of their SABG allotment on substance abuse primary prevention strategies. Arkansas is divided into 13 regional catchment areas covering the entire state. Each regional representative provides substance abuse education and programs for their assigned region. We contract a lot of these services for this program through UALR Mid-South, who oversees the subcontracting and coordination as we outlined in the grant. It includes school and community programs.

- **Save AR Students (SABG)** - *Save AR Students is a weeklong awareness campaign directed towards education and prevention of substance abuse throughout all institutions of higher education in the State of Arkansas. Save AR Students happens twice a year -- Spring and Fall -- the week following up to Arkansas Drug Take Back Day. Save AR Students Week is commenced with a kickoff that invites students, institution administrators & faculty, mascots, and state & local officials to rally in Little Rock, Arkansas on the steps of the State Capitol. The kickoff provides the public with an opportunity to witness testimonies and stories from community members impacted by substance, which provide perspectives and experiences that need to be considered in the work towards curtailing substance misuse.*

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS GRANT (PFS)

PFS priorities are to reduce underage drinking and use of marijuana of in youth 9-20 years old. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock/School of Social Work/MidSOUTH Center for Prevention and Training (MidSOUTH) serves as a subgrantee for the current PFS project, providing management, training/technical assistance (TA), and event planning statewide to all provider organizations on behalf of DHS/DAABHS.

MidSOUTH continues to be integral in management of Regional Lead Agencies (RLA), the annual Renewal Application Process (RFP), scoring, selection, and oversight of RLA that comprise the group of 13 coordinating organizations. The plan for this continuing PFS-18 project is driven by "lessons learned" in the preceding PFS initiative and data gathered during the current funding cycle. Experience with PFS-13 (management of that volume of programs, among them varying capacities, technical assistance needs, operational approaches, etc.) provided valuable lessons with which this program has evolved. We have consolidated PFS operational units (from 36 in PFS-13) into regional units, thirteen (13) in total, each with a RLA overseeing a contiguous block of counties, community coalitions, and youth prevention programs.

- **The statewide Rise Above Alcohol and Drugs campaign (RAAD)**- *RAAD is the overarching theme for Substance Abuse Prevention in Arkansas encouraging everyone to Rise Above Alcohol & Drugs! Arkansas' RAAD campaign is a comprehensive statewide effort designed to share drug prevention information with community stakeholders, school leaders, faith-based groups and business leaders alike. The goal of RAAD is to create curriculum and data driven messages engrossed in activity centered around changed behavior. Additionally, there's a collective effort to correct misconceptions and stigma surrounding alcohol and drug misuse by promoting messages through community-wide electronic and print media. RAAD not only focuses on environmental influences but also interpersonal influences by including community coalitions in the work. While underage drinking, prescription drug misuse and high tobacco usage remains a prevalent issue in Arkansas, we also face the challenge of addressing an increasing trend in marijuana usage after recent legislation passed to legalize its use for medical purposes.*

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG/OPIOID-RELATED GRANT (PDO)

PDO primary focus is to reduce the number of prescription drug /opioid overdoses-related deaths and adverse events among individuals 18 years or older by training first responders and other key community sectors on the prevention of prescription drugs/opioid overdose-related deaths and implementing secondary preventions strategies, including purchase and distribution of Naloxone to first responders.

- *PDO Advisory Council will be formed as a subcommittee of the existing Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council, under the direction of Arkansas's Drug Director, with the addition of key stakeholders impacted by the issue of opiate misuse and overdose. All designated PDO Advisory Council members will sign agreements for their agencies/organizations to serve on the council.*

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STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT II (SOR II)

SOR II supports the naloxone training/distribution and prescriber education through Criminal Justice Institute and UALR Mid-SOUTH \$500,000 supports prevention focused on senior population (age 65+) provided by UAMS Reynolds Reynolds Institute on Aging, aimed at reducing opioid use and related risks, as well as education on opioids, pain management alternatives, etc.

- **Arkansas Improving Multidisciplinary Pain Care Treatment (AR-IMPACT)** - *is a live streaming online video conferencing service staffed by a multidisciplinary team from UAMS, including a pain physician, addiction psychiatrist, psychologist, two pharmacists and a physical therapist. This is provided weekly and was developed in partnership with UAMS, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, Office of the Drug Director/DAABHS, and AR Department of Health. AR-IMPACT is the latest of UAMS's efforts to respond to the opioid epidemic which include reducing opioid prescriptions while improving patient outcomes, re-educating staff, treating overdose patients and treating opioid misuse through medication and group therapy. Research to improve understanding of opioid misuse and its treatment is ongoing in departments across campus.*

- **Opioid Prevention for Aging and Longevity (OPAL)** - UAMS Reynolds Institute on Aging, the nine Centers on Aging, and nursing facilities served by UAMS, provides outreach to and education of the Medicare population about the dangers of opioids. The SOR grant identified seniors 65 and older as a priority population because more than 70% of community dwelling seniors have pain-related medications, and approximately a quarter of them have at least one opioid prescription. Similarly, more than 90% of our nursing home residents are on pain medications for chronic pain, with more than one-third prescribed at least one opioid. The Reynolds Institute has developed a robust, innovative program, OPAL with support from opioid-related prevention grants.
- **Arkansas Naloxone Project**- Contractor: Criminal Justice Institute provides education and health literacy training to decrease misunderstanding and improve communication between individuals and their doctors, educate first responders on administration of naloxone, and family members on recognition of overdose and administration of naloxone. Media Campaign – Statewide media campaign centered on calling 911 in event of an overdose. The dangers of misuse of opioids, and the importance of speaking up about addiction concerns. Naloxone is purchased to supply a first set of doses for responders and for OUD patients' families after being trained on administration. This project is funded by DAABHS via a variety of federal funding opportunities and Blue and You Foundation -First Responder training (Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and School Nurses) has resulted in over 932 saves from naloxone administrations to date (12-2019), over 5000 trained and kits disseminated. On-line training courses were developed.
 - Arkansas "Don't Run, Call 911" media program is designed to educate Arkansas on the Joshua Ashley-Pauley Act.
 - Narcansas App- Free app provided to Arkansans on multiple formats, providing access to training and instruction on life saving naloxone and services for prevention, treatment and recovery provided by the state of Arkansas.
- **Advanced Overdose Investigation** - A law enforcement course that educates law enforcement investigators, Prosecuting Attorney's, and Coroners, on advanced techniques in drug diversion, forensic investigation specific to overdose deaths, advanced criminal overdose investigation, as well as available federal and state resources to pursue past the overdose death holding those that poisoned these victims accountable under our criminal justice system. Funded through the STR grant Office of the Drug Director, DAABHS and in partnerships with the DEA, Arkansas Pharmacy Board. Provided by the Criminal Justice Institute.
- **Arkansas Stop Stigma Campaign** - Provides education through a variety of formats to provoke community and collaborative conversations to defeat the stigma around substance use disorder and identifying it as a disease. Grant Funded through DAABHS, with several collaborative partners.
- **Collegiate NARCAN Campaign (SOR II)** -The Collegiate NARCAN Campaign was developed to improve overdose prevention and naloxone availability in Arkansas's higher education settings. This campaign offers a training that provides opioid overdose education, training on how to properly administer NARCAN, and equips colleges and universities with available and accessible NARCAN Boxes. The campaign is split into 2 phases. Phase 1 will focus solely on promoting the Collegiate NARCAN digital media to raise social awareness to colleges and universities across the state and promoting the free Collegiate NARCAN SCORM Training Module. Phase 2 will focus on procurement and dissemination of NARCAN Boxes (i.e., initially targeting Arkansas Collegiate Network 8 Core Team Institutions, high risk institution as indicated by data, and institutions with collegiate recovery programs). **(For more information contact Steven Gray at Steven.Gray@dhs.arkansas.gov)**

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FIRST RESPONDER – COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (FR-CARA)

FR CARA conducts prevention and education initiatives to reduce prescription drug/opioid overdose-related deaths and other problems associated with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).in Arkansas Delta counties. The program supports effective overdose prevention and referral services, including naloxone distribution and training in its use. The focus is on 22 Delta Counties (Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clay, Cross, Desha, Drew, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Randolph, St. Francis, Union, and Woodruff) that have not received community-level overdose prevention and intervention services funded through similar grants received by DHS/DAABHS.

Vulnerabilities of rural opioid users often include poverty, low health literacy, high rates of incarceration, limited access to healthcare and emergency services, etc. Such challenges may put individuals at risk for overdose and death, impact their ability to seek treatment, and increase potential for encounters with law enforcement and/or involvement of child welfare agencies. Limited access to substance use treatment and counseling in the Arkansas Delta area, along with limited ability to pay for services and intense social stigma, make OUD treatment and recovery particularly challenging. Emergency medical care is challenging due to distances that EMTs must travel to respond to a call; these areas will benefit greatly from naloxone training and distribution to local law enforcement/first responders and family/support network members of patients recently discharged from OUD treatment.

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What is the importance of prevention?

Prevention is defined as interventions that occur prior to the onset of a disorder that is intended to prevent or reduce the risk for the disorder. Prevention is a part of a broader health promotion effort, based on the knowledge that addiction is a primary, progressive, chronic, and fatal disease. As such, it focuses on creating population-level changes, within the cultural context, in order to reduce risks and strengthen the ability to cope with adversity.

Building coordinated prevention efforts through collaboration with state agencies, community organizations, and special populations offer multiple strategies, provides multiple points of access, and allows for coordination to expand citizen participation in community activity as a most promising approach to preventing alcohol and other drug problems and youth-related violence. A comprehensive approach to a particular problem or behavior is an effective way to achieve the desired permanent behavior or normative change.

For more information on the Arkansas Prevention Team, please contact Kymala Calloway at Kymala.Calloway@dhs.arkansas.gov.