



Rural Communities Opioid Response Program: Expanding SUD Access to Rural Communities

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Rural Realities and Challenges

Though opioid abuse and opioid-related death has been on the rise nationally, rural communities are disproportionately affected

In 2017 the rate of drug overdose deaths from opioids was higher in rural counties than urban

Rural residents are most likely to be prescribed, and overdose on, prescription painkillers

Rural residents with opioid use disorder tend to be younger, less wealthy and educated, and more uninsured or underinsured than urban users

More than 50% of rural counties lack a single physician that can prescribe buprenorphine, and less than 10% of Opioid Treatment Programs are in rural areas

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

- Multi-year initiative developed in FY18 with \$100 million appropriation; additional \$120 million appropriation in FY19.
- Provides funding and technical assistance directly to rural communities to strengthen their capacity to address the opioid epidemic.
- Website: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/rcorp>

The screenshot shows the HRSA website's page for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). The header includes the HRSA logo and navigation tabs for FORHP Home, Funding Opportunities, Resources, and About Us. The main content area features the title "Rural Communities Opioid Response Program" and a "Recent Awards" section with four bullet points: RCORP-Implementation Awards (\$1 million each to 80 rural consortia), RCORP-Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Awards (up to \$725,000 each to 12 recipients), RCORP-Centers Of Excellence On Substance Use Disorders (CoEs) Awards (\$6.6 million each to three recipients), and RCORP-Evaluation Award (\$3 million to one recipient). Below the awards, a paragraph describes the RCORP as a multi-year initiative supported by HRSA to address barriers to access in rural communities related to substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD). It also mentions that RCORP funds multi-sector consortia to enhance their ability to implement and sustain SUD/OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services in underserved rural areas. The page includes a "Contact Us" sidebar with a link to email HRSA and an "RCORP Initiatives" sidebar with links to RCORP Overview, Planning, Implementation, MAT Expansion, Centers of Excellence, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation.

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

FORHP Home Funding Opportunities Resources About Us

Home > Federal Office of Rural Health Policy > Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

Recent Awards

- [RCORP-Implementation Awards](#)
\$1 million each to 80 rural consortia
- [RCORP-Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) Expansion Awards](#)
Up to \$725,000 each to 12 recipients
- [RCORP-Centers Of Excellence On Substance Use Disorders \(CoEs\) Awards](#)
\$6.6 million each to three recipients
- [RCORP-Evaluation Award](#)
\$3 million to one recipient

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address barriers to access in rural communities related to substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD).

RCORP funds multi-sector consortia to enhance their ability to implement and sustain SUD/OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services in underserved rural areas.

The [National Health Service Corps](#) is a collaborator on this initiative to address SUD provider shortages in rural communities.

Visit [HRSA's Opioid Crisis page](#) for information about HRSA's comprehensive response to the opioid crisis.

Contact Us

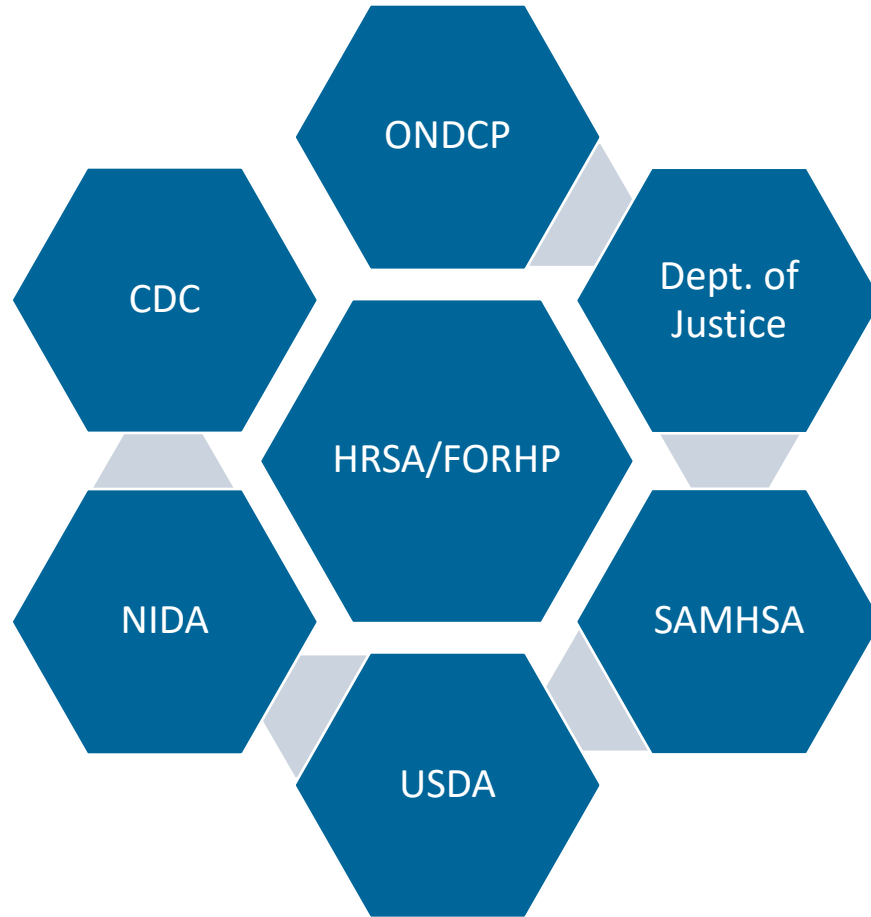
Questions about HRSA's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in rural communities? [Email us.](#)

RCORP Initiatives

Learn more about our RCORP initiatives.

- [RCORP Overview](#)
- [Planning](#)
- [Implementation](#)
- [MAT Expansion](#)
- [Centers of Excellence](#)
- [Technical Assistance](#)
- [Evaluation](#)

Leveraging Federal Resources



- Stakeholder Feedback
 - Resources needed to build infrastructure
 - Need for organizational capacity to apply for funding and manage opportunities
 - State funds are not reaching rural communities
 - Support to connect the various resources
 - Need for funding to target SUD more broadly

RCORP Grant Programs

	RCORP-Planning	RCORP-Implementation	RCORP-MAT Expansion
Goal	To strengthen the capacity of multi-sector consortiums to address opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.	To strengthen opioid use disorder service delivery by implementing a set of core prevention, treatment, and recovery activities that align with HHS's Five-Point Strategy to Combat the Opioid Crisis	To enhance access to medication-assisted treatment within small rural clinic and hospital settings.
Period of performance	1 year	3 years	3 years
Award amount	\$200K	\$1 million	Up to \$725K
# Awards	95 (FY18); 120 (FY19)	80 (FY19); 29 (projected-FY20)	12 (FY19)
Eligibility	Domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit, entities. Additional applicant and consortium specifications as described in NOFO. All services must exclusively target rural areas.		

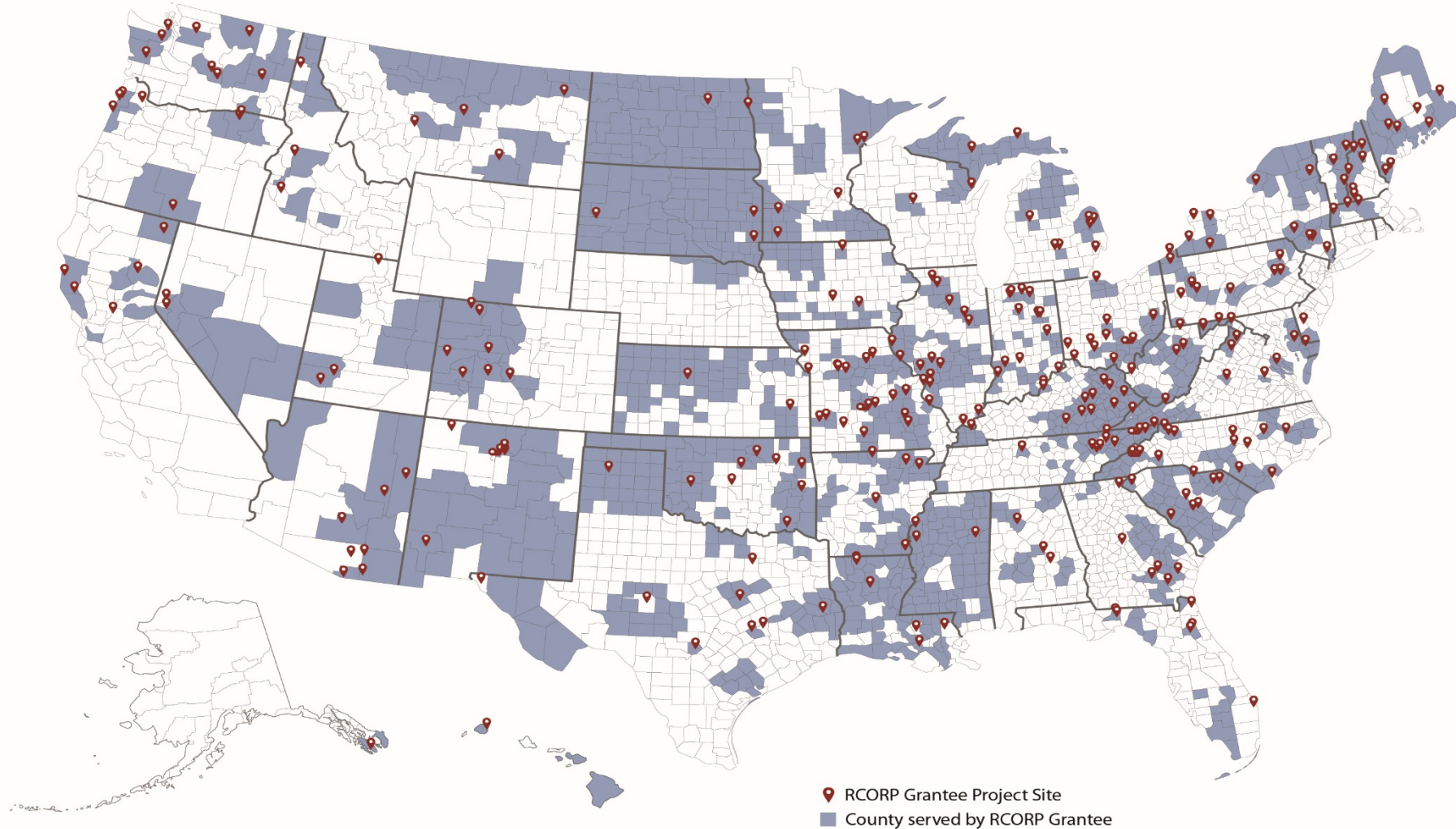


RCORP Cooperative Agreements

	RCORP-Technical Assistance	RCORP-Evaluation	RCORP-Centers of Excellence
Goal	To assist rural consortiums with addressing opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery service and workforce needs.	To evaluate the impact of RCORP initiatives through data collection and analysis, and to develop evaluation tools and resources for rural communities.	To support the dissemination of best practices related to the treatment for and prevention of SUDs within rural communities, with a focus on the current opioid crisis, and the development of methods to address future SUD epidemics.
Period of performance	4 years	4 years	3 years
Award amount	\$6 million per year	\$3 million per year	\$6.7 million
Award recipient	JBS International, Inc.	JBS International, Inc., in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University	Fletcher Group (Stockbridge, GA); University of Rochester (Rochester, NY); University of Vermont (Burlington, VT)



Current RCORP Grantee Sites



Resurgence of Methamphetamine Use in Rural Communities

Data Trends in Methamphetamine use between 2016-2017

- Rate of overdose deaths involving psychostimulants increased by over 33% in rural communities
- The rate of drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants was higher in rural than in urban counties
- The largest increases in use and death rates were in rural majority states (WV, KY and AK)

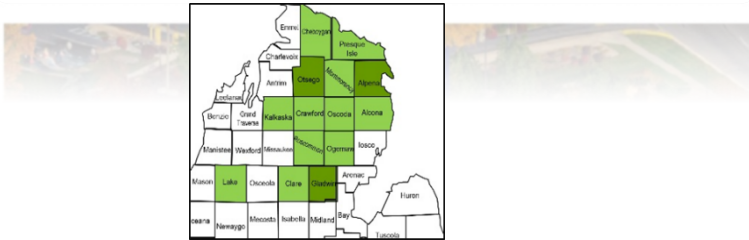
What we are hearing from Rural Communities

- “Meth and alcohol are a bigger priority for our community and state overall”
- “Opioid funding available should have more of a focus on polysubstance users”
- “We have a problem with opioids, meth, alcohol and other substances but rural communities do not have the capacity to apply for everything”



Addressing the Opioid Epidemic in a Rural Region

Michigan Center for Rural Health, East Lansing, Michigan



Consortium Name:

Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium

Primary Focus Area:

Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, & Workforce

Goal:

To coordinate efforts to identify areas of best practice for replication and expansion, identify gaps in care for the target population, develop solutions in identified gaps in care, leverage state resources to address system and policy issues, and reduce the duplication of efforts.

Achievements to Date:

- To date, there are 37 consortium member organizations including hospitals, community health centers, local public health departments, community mental health agencies, local community-based organizations and state of MI agencies dedicated to addressing opioid use disorder.
- Partnered with Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MiHIA) for the development and implementation of a 14-county opioid strategy map per the objectives and goals

State Office of Rural Health Role in RCORP

- Apply for, and/or serve as a consortium member on, an RCORP grant
- Help connect organizations in your state so that they can apply as a consortium
- Inform FORHP on the status of SUD/OD in your state
- Disseminate RCORP funding opportunities to rural stakeholders
- Participate in RCORP site visits

