

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program

Support to Tribal Communities

Introduction

The opioid epidemic is a pressing public health and public safety concern in states and communities across the country. Local and tribal governments bear the brunt of substance use issues in their communities as they coordinate systems and resources to respond to the needs of individuals and families. The local response is critical in prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts by engaging and coordinating first responders, health and behavioral health systems, social and protective services agencies, local justice system stakeholders, and many others.

Tribal governments are leading efforts in their communities impacted by the opioid epidemic and working to coordinate with other government partners. Many leaders are providing a forum to address readiness, collaboration, support, and culturally responsive strategies. Ensuring health, public safety, and family resources in communities is at the core of tribal governments; however, this epidemic, and its enduring financial costs, is straining the ability to provide critical services.

COAP Goals and Strategies

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, save lives, and reduce crime. Since 2017, BJA has supported innovative work in more than 200 COAP sites.

COAP focuses on effective policy strategies that include the following:

- ◀ **Supporting our nation's first responders** and strengthening their partnerships with behavioral health, public health, and agencies that serve crime victims.
- ◀ **Expanding diversion programs** for nonviolent individuals who abuse illicit and prescription opioids.
- ◀ **Implementing and enhancing PDMPs.**
- ◀ Encouraging and **supporting comprehensive cross-system planning** and collaboration among officials who work in law enforcement, pretrial services, the courts, probation and parole, child welfare, reentry, PDMPs, and emergency medical services, as well as health-care providers, public health partners, and agencies that provide substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.

- ◀ Developing and implementing strategies to **identify and provide treatment and recovery support services** to high-frequency utilizers of multiple systems (e.g., health care, child welfare, criminal justice) who have a history of opioid abuse.
- ◀ **Increasing the availability of treatment and recovery support services** in rural or tribal communities by expanding the use of technology-assisted treatment and recovery support services.
- ◀ **Enhancing public safety, behavioral health, and public health information sharing partnerships** that leverage key public health and public safety data sets (e.g., de-identified PDMP data, naloxone administration, fatal and nonfatal overdose data, drug arrests) to create a holistic view of the environment and develop interventions based on this information.

COAP Grantee Spotlight

Makah Tribal Organization (Washington)

The Makah Tribe is located in a remote, rural area in northwest Washington State, with a population of just over 2,900. This community has experienced an increase in fatal and nonfatal opioid related deaths that led the tribe to implement efforts to address the crisis. The community has widely disseminated naloxone overdose kits, invested in training community members to be recovery coaches, offered the option of Vivitrol injections, and implemented the Makah Healing Court, Domestic Violence Court, and direct intensive outpatient treatment. However, the need to address the crisis remains, and community members identified additional efforts to make an impact in their community.

The “Healing Together House” (HTH) is a nonresidential center for adults that supports a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and provides connections to services. The HTH includes a drop-in house, case management, recovery coaching, education and awareness events, and family support services. The project is managed by the chief of police, and a project coordinator collaborates with service providers and conducts day-to-day program activities.

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

The Menominee Reservation is located in a rural area, 45 miles northwest of Green Bay, Wisconsin. The community, like many others, has experienced an increase in substance use issues and barriers to accessing treatment. Specifically, the community identified the goal of developing strategies that address the needs of youth and children impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Through its COAP grant, the Menominee Indian Tribe developed a Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) to reduce opioid abuse and provide immediate crisis counseling and connection to and coordination of services and care for youth and children who are victims. To further coordinate and leverage these efforts and mitigate the impact of opioid abuse on victims, two case managers, a clinical therapist, a family preservation worker, and a program coordinator were hired to guide implementation of the program. By coordinating these efforts, the program provides opportunities to develop culturally responsive strategies aimed at coordinating rapid response services in the community and provide family therapy and grief counseling to cope with stigma associated with fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

In addition, the Menominee Tribal Police (METP) created a calm area in the department called the “sacom room” (a Menominee word for calm). The room includes soft lighting and creates a comfortable environment for youth and children as they wait to be released to someone who can care for them. The crisis response case managers facilitate this process and also begin needs assessments, coordination of services, and safety planning.

COAP-Supported Tribal Community Programs

Alaska

- ◀ Meshik Soul Healing—Native Village of Port Heiden
- ◀ Tlingit and Haida Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Prevention and Intervention Project—Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- ◀ The State of Alaska Tribal Diversion Project

California

- ◀ Hoopa Tribal Court COAP—Hoopa Valley Tribe
- ◀ Yurok Opioid Diversion to Healing Program—Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation

New Mexico

- ◀ Curbing the Opioid Crisis—Pueblo of Pojoaque

New York

- ◀ Seneca Nation Diversion Program—Seneca Nation of Indians

North Carolina

- ◀ Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Integrated Opioid Abuse Program—Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Oklahoma

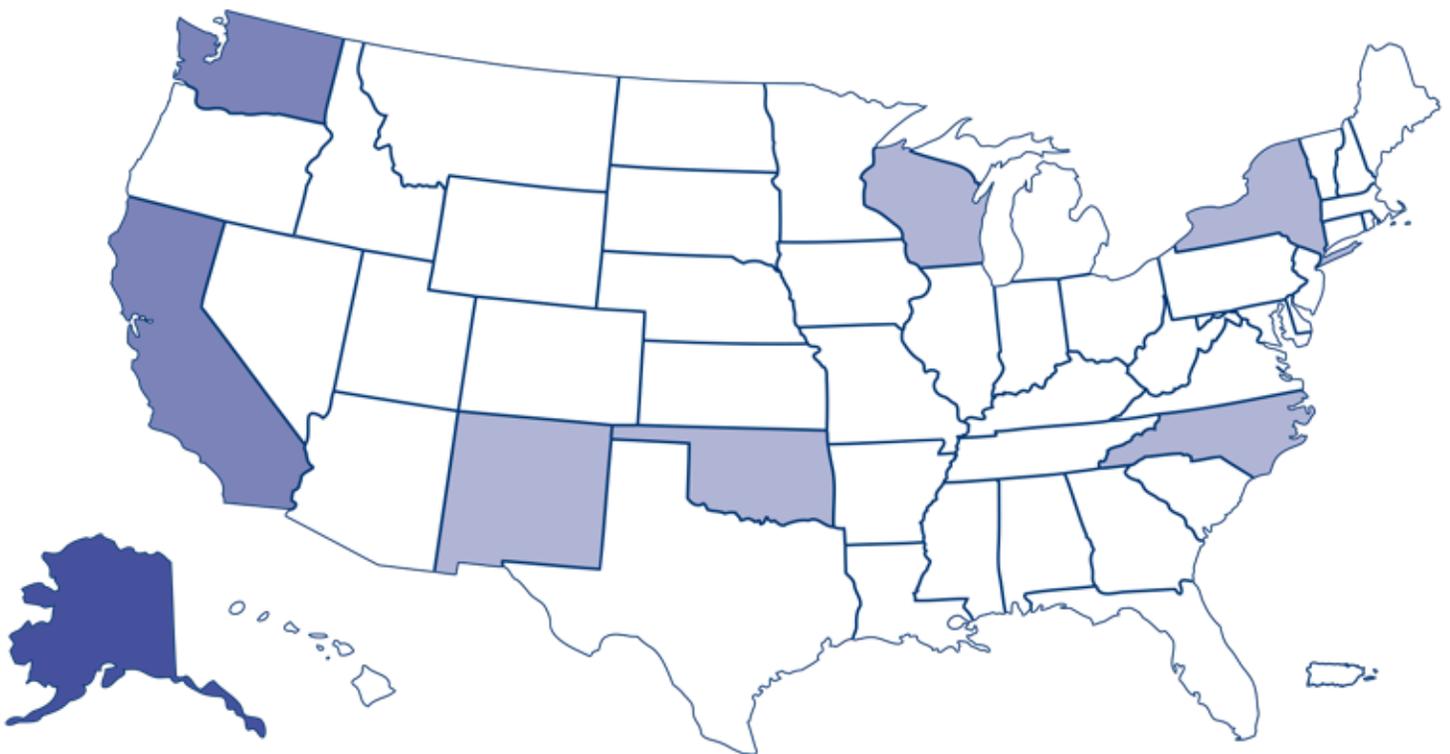
- ◀ Muscogee (Creek) Nations Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site Program—Muscogee (Creek) Nations

Washington

- ◀ Community Reentry Services—Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation
- ◀ "Healing Together House" First Responder Partnerships—Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation

Wisconsin

- ◀ Menominee Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program—Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin



This map represents locations of the COAP-supported Tribal Community programs. States with the highest concentration of projects are indicated by the darkest shading.

COAP Training and Technical Assistance Program

The COAP TTA program offers information, training, technical assistance, and learning opportunities to support BJA grantees, states, tribes, and communities in building and sustaining multidisciplinary criminal justice responses to the opioid epidemic. Expertise is available to support a wide range of programs, including first-responder and overdose prevention; technology-assisted treatment; diversion and alternative sentencing; reentry and community corrections; and PDMP and data-driven projects. Training and technical assistance is provided in a variety of formats, including expert consultations, virtual and in-person training events, workshop and meeting presentations, and online resources.

Tribes, states, and local communities are invited to request TTA to meet their specific needs and goals. Here are some of the ways in which the COAP TTA Program can support your community:

- ◀ **Facilitating peer-to-peer learning opportunities** in which communities can learn from experienced programs through virtual consultations and on-site visits.

- ◀ **Providing speakers for conferences** and workshops or skilled subject-matter experts for training events to educate stakeholders and build capacity.
- ◀ **Facilitating strategic and cross-system planning** to identify community resources, establish priorities, and develop a road map to achieving goals.
- ◀ **Identifying materials** such as policies and procedures, guidelines, and data sharing agreements that support program activities.

In addition to self-identified TTA, the COAP TTA Program offers special learning opportunities such as the Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative (PRSSMI). The purpose of this initiative is to advance the inclusion of peer recovery support services into jurisdictions' portfolios of substance abuse intervention and treatment strategies. PRSSMI participants are matched to an experienced "mentor site" program that provides consultation and support through virtual learning sessions and an on-site visit. Mentor sites are experienced collaborators with first responders, law enforcement, courts, jails, prisons, and community corrections to help people who abuse opioids to achieve and maintain recovery from addiction.

For More Information About COAP and Technical Assistance Requests

Visit the COAP Resource Center at www.coapresources.org for more information about the program. BJA also provides free training and technical assistance related to tribal community programs to both COAP grantees and nongrantees. To explore technical assistance opportunities, please visit the COAP Resource Center.

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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 and follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.