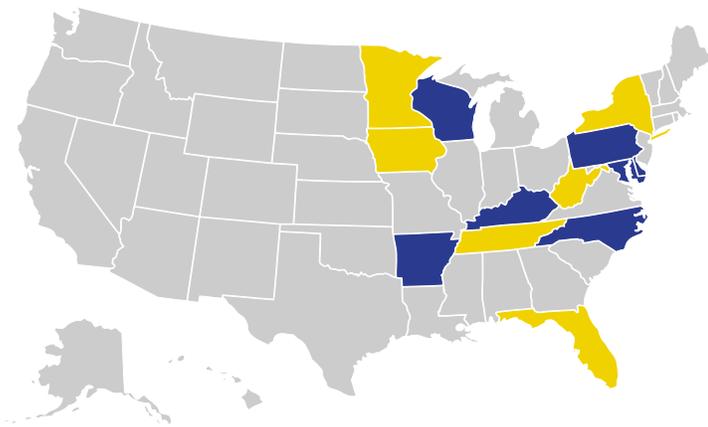


Opportunities for Peer-to-Peer Connections: Commonalities Among FY2019 Statewide COAP Grantees

Catching Up With COSSAP, June 2020 Edition

Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) grantees are implementing diverse strategies to address the challenges posed by substance abuse in their communities. While each grantee’s activities are tailored to its specific region and population, there are commonalities in approaches that grantees may wish to explore—and benefit from—through peer-to-peer connections. This article provides a snapshot of activities being prioritized by 13 Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 statewide COAP grantees and suggests next steps that grantees can take to connect with their peers.

Among the 13 grantees, 7 received funding to implement new opioid interventions in at least six geographically diverse localities, and 6 received funding to enhance existing opioid interventions in at least three geographically diverse localities. The combined 13 state agencies are presented in the table below by subcategory and in the map above.



Implementation	Arkansas	Department of Finance and Administration
	Delaware	Executive Office of the Governor
	Kentucky	Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
	Maryland	Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
	North Carolina	Department of Health and Human Services
	Pennsylvania	Commission on Crime and Delinquency
	Wisconsin	Department of Justice
Enhancement	Florida	Office of the State Courts Administrator
	Iowa	Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy
	Minnesota	Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
	New York	Office of Addiction Services and Supports
	Tennessee	Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
	West Virginia	Division of Administrative Services, Justice and Community Services

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Catching Up With COSSAP, June 2020 Edition

A Look at Grantees' Planned Activities

Information about activities that grantees planned to implement to address substance abuse in their regions was collected at the start of their COAP funding. The most common activities reported were using law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect people

to substance abuse treatment and recovery services; building capacity in underserved regions affected by the opioid epidemic; linking data sets to identify trends and focus resources; offering alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders; and educating public safety and justice stakeholders about substance abuse. A complete table of planned activities is presented as follows.

Planned Activities	Implementation							Enhancement					
	Arkansas	Delaware	Kentucky	Maryland	North Carolina	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin	Florida	Iowa	Minnesota	New York	Tennessee	West Virginia
Build capacity in impacted underserved regions	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•
Deploy prescriber education programs												•	
Develop and disseminate research on opioid policies and interventions				•	•		•				•	•	
Educate public safety and justice stakeholders about substance abuse	•	•	•	•	•		•					•	•
Encourage public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration		•	•	•	•					•		•	
Increase naloxone access	•			•	•					•		•	
Increase public awareness about opioid abuse	•											•	•
Integrate standardized screening practices in the justice system				•								•	
Implement prescription drug monitoring programs		•		•			•						
Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	
Offer alternatives to incarceration	•		•	•	•		•	•	•			•	
Offer jail-based treatment and reentry programs	•	•		•	•		•					•	
Set up peer support services and recovery housing	•	•	•	•	•					•		•	
Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic		•	•					•				•	•
Use law enforcement diversion and first responder models to connect people to treatment and recovery services	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•		•	•
Use real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination	•	•		•		•	•		•			•	

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Catching Up With COSSAP, June 2020 Edition

Peer-to-Peer Connections

For grantees, or any community or jurisdiction seeking to address substance abuse challenges, information on peer-to-peer learning opportunities is available online at <https://www.cossapresources.org/>. Examples include the [COSSAP Message Exchange Sign-Up](#), the [Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative](#), and the [Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion and Referral Mentoring Initiative](#). For tailored assistance, your TTA request is always welcomed at <https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA>.

Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at www.cossapresources.org.

Editor's Note: Evolution of COAP to COSSAP

In 2020, BJA's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) was renamed the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), broadening the scope of the program to reflect emerging substance abuse challenges in American communities. The evolution from COAP to COSSAP is illustrative of BJA's responsiveness to and support for those communities, meeting them "where they are" to address their circumstances. This article and others in the Catching Up With COSSAP newsletter may reference COAP grantees because the projects discussed in them were funded before the expansion to COSSAP occurred.

