



Louisiana  
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Recovery from Opioid Addiction and Re-entry (ROAR)

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

## Overview

In the past five years Louisiana's drug deaths have increased 65 percent, from 12.9 to 21.3 deaths per 100,000 people. Community capacity to systematically integrate evidence-based and coordinated treatment for newly released offenders with substance use disorders is limited. The National Mental Health America's 2018 report lists Louisiana as one of the states with the lowest rates of access to care, ranking 45th nationally. In many rural areas of Louisiana, such as Webster Parish, where this project will be located, patients have no access to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment and often face limited transportation options to access care in nearby cities. According to a 2017 estimate, Webster Parish's population was 39,710, a decline of nearly 3.8 percent since the 2010 census. This project will pilot a medically managed opioid withdrawal program for offenders physically dependent on opioids upon entering a local jail facility; increase and expand the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections' (DPS&C) Opiate Substance Abuse Program to a rural local

jail facility to improve outcomes for offenders diagnosed with an opioid use disorder (OUD); and enhance access to treatment and peer support recovery services to offenders with OUDs who have limited access to treatment and recovery services because of geographic isolation.

## Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Integrate standardized screening practices into the criminal justice system.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

The Louisiana DPS&C Recovery from Opioid Addiction and Re-entry (ROAR) Program will plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, and expand access to treatment and recovery support services for offenders with OUDs. This program will serve 300 offenders with OUDs who will receive medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and intensive substance abuse treatment at a rural jail facility located in Webster Parish.

The ROAR Program will provide a comprehensive plan to develop and implement a medically managed opiate withdrawal program to offenders with OUDs upon entering Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center (BDCC), as well as enhance existing treatment pre- and post-release.

Comprehensive treatment plans will be created for each offender to meet treatment goals to ensure proper discharge back to the community in an effort to reduce continued opioid abuse and overdose fatalities.

Specifically, the program will:

1. Assess an offender physically dependent on opioids and provide MAT treatment with buprenorphine upon the offender's commitment to the facility for medically managed opiate withdrawal.
2. Provide pre- and post-release MAT in the form of oral naltrexone and/or extended-release naltrexone injection for OUD offenders.
3. Provide pre- and post-release intensive substance abuse treatment, employing a comprehensive case plan and discharge plan.
4. Provide pre- and post-release peer recovery support services.

## Project Partners

- DPS&C Probation and Parole
- Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Behavioral Health
- Northwest Louisiana Human Service District
- Ascent powered by Sober Grid (Digital Peer Support Recovery Access)

## Contact Information

**Project Director: Shelley Edgerton**

**Email: [shelleyedgerton@corrections.state.la.us](mailto:shelleyedgerton@corrections.state.la.us)**

**Phone: (225) 342-3823**

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