

# Bureau of Justice Assistance

## Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program

# Support to Local Governments

## 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 burden 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, and local justice system stakeholders.

Local governments are leading efforts to address the epidemic and working to coordinate with state and tribal governments, and other multisector partners. Ensuring health, public safety, and family support services in communities is at the core of local governments; however, this epidemic (and its enduring financial costs) are straining their 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 administrations, 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

### Erie County, New York

Erie County, New York, has utilized its COAP grant to expand its collaborative efforts and opioid overdose outreach programs. Survivors of an overdose connect with a peer navigator and are linked to treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), within 24 to 72 hours. The county took an aggressive approach to making naloxone widely available and trained more than 13,500 community members and first responders.

In addition, the county's law enforcement and public health department have coordinated efforts to implement the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) tool to track fatal and nonfatal overdoses and the administration of naloxone. The information supports law enforcement activities and intervention efforts in the post-overdose response to connect individuals to treatment.

### Franklin County, Ohio

With its COAP grant, Franklin County, Ohio, is enhancing its MAT + Link opioid intervention program, which connects justice-involved individuals to MAT in jail or immediately upon release. This work is a collaboration among the county's pretrial and probation services, sheriff's office, and local mental health and addiction service providers, along with county and municipal court

judges. The county is strengthening processes, enhancing connections to MAT, and developing a transition component to connect individuals to community-based care when they leave the jail. The county will be conducting project evaluation to examine program effectiveness, treatment adherence, and recidivism.

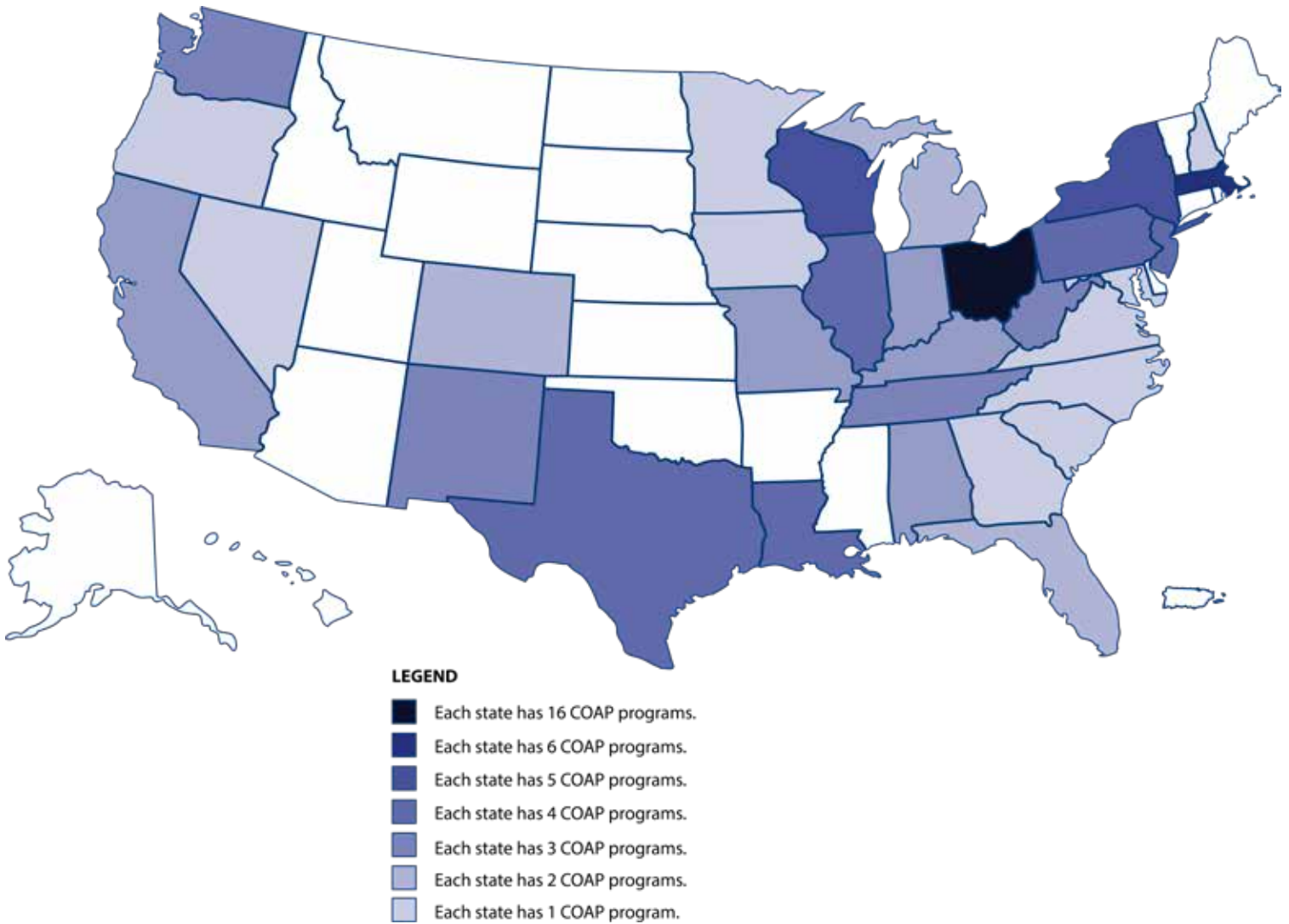
The county also started utilizing ODMAP to identify overdose trends that will lead to developing intervention strategies and continued information sharing of nonfatal overdoses.

### The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)

ODMAP is a tool developed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to assist communities in collecting near real-time data on suspected overdoses. The information helps public safety and public health partners coordinate response efforts, assist in developing strategies to address overdoses, and share information of overdose spikes with nearby jurisdictions. Numerous local governments are utilizing ODMAP, including a number of COAP grantees.

For more information on ODMAP, visit <http://www.odmap.org/>.

## COAP-Supported Local Government Programs



This map represents locations of the COAP-supported local government 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 localities 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](http://www.coapresources.org) for more information about the program. BJA also provides free training and technical assistance related to state 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](http://www.bja.gov) and follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.