

Virginia's State Opioid Response Funded Recovery Services

PEER RECOVERY SERVICES FUNDED BY THE STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT

The **State Opioid Response (SOR) grant** is distributed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). DBHDS distributes funds to prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives across Virginia. They have also partnered with OMNI Institute to evaluate all SOR work.

Peer support services funded by the SOR grant span the entirety of the continuum of care. Peers provide support for mental health and substance use disorders and meet individuals in traditional and non-traditional settings, including Community Services Boards (CSBs), correctional facilities, emergency departments, local health districts, and colleges/universities.

Community Services Boards (CSB) Peer Services

offer individual and group peer services, transportation, community outreach, case management, and harm reduction activities.

Department of Corrections (DOC) Peer Recovery Support Program

provides group peer services at DOC sites across Virginia.

Emergency Department and First Responder Peer Recovery Services

support individuals who have experienced an overdose or other mental health or substance use-related crises.

Collegiate Recovery Programs

provide recovery services, engage students through campus-wide outreach, and provide Recovery Ally trainings.

Peer Recovery Services in Jails and Recovery Courts

including individual and group services, connecting individuals leaving jail with providers via warm handoffs and transportation to treatment, and pre-release discharge planning.

Recovery Housing

in partnership with the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR), provides a safe and sober lifestyle for individuals learning to live in recovery from substance use disorders.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Peer Supporters

serve through seven local health districts to provide community education and outreach, harm reduction programming, and warmlines.

Pregnant & Parenting Women (PPW) Peer Services

are provided through referrals from DSS, family treatment courts, and hospital labor and delivery departments.

Join us in this work to promote peer recovery services in Virginia. Contact us at SORrecovery@omni.org.




Virginia's State Opioid Response Recovery Initiatives



EXPANDING THE PEER RECOVERY SPACE

Virginia is committed to supporting the expansion of the peer recovery field to ensure this currently undervalued field can flourish by:

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- Leveraging SOR funds to fund research and enhance outreach
 - Connecting people across Virginia and other states to advance the field
 - Supporting the career and professional development of Peer Recovery Specialists
 - Implementing peer support services across a range of settings and the continuum of care, including emergency departments, justice programs, universities, and other community-based locations

Example activities Virginia and OMNI Institute that are ongoing to expand the peer recovery space:



RECOVERY ROUNDTABLES

OMNI Institute facilitates quarterly meetings with SOR recovery leads from several states to share best practices and program innovations.



STANDARDIZED MEASURES

Virginia promotes utilizing standardized measures to evaluate the impact of peer recovery work on individual outcomes and has several pilot evaluations ongoing.



SUPPORTING PEERS INTO THE FUTURE

In the coming year, OMNI Institute will examine what supports peers need to avoid burnout and thrive in the critical roles they play.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

OMNI Institute has produced peer recovery research resources to support others in the field doing similar work:

- Literature review of peer recovery services outcomes
- Comparative review of peer support specialist training across states
- Guide for developing emergency department peer support programs
- Peer recovery support implementation guides for collegiate, hospital, and justice settings.

All documents are available for download at virginiasorsupport.org/peers. Scan the QR code to access



SCAN ME



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