

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Use Program (COSSUP)

Background

The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) was developed as part of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which was signed into law in 2016 to address the growing overdose crisis.¹

COSSUP provides financial and technical assistance to states, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to develop, implement, or expand comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other drugs.

COSSUP's four programmatic focus areas are:

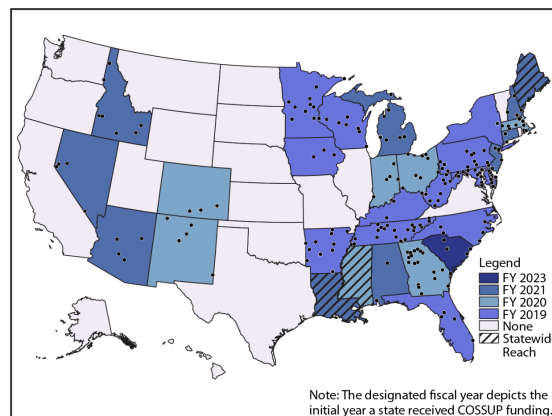
- Promoting public safety and supporting access to treatment and recovery services in the criminal justice system.
- Strengthening the collection and sharing of data across systems to understand and address the impact of illicit substance use and misuse.
- Aligning and maximizing resources across systems and leveraging various program funding.
- Preventing illicit substance use and misuse.

Site-Based Grants

The Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs releases site-based grants annually to states, territories, local governments, and tribal communities. To ensure a grantee can best address their community's needs,

COSSUP grants program are intentionally flexible, enabling each community to tailor their approach based on specific local or regional needs and to effectively respond to emerging substance use-related challenges.²

Exhibit 5. U.S. Map of COSSUP Program Locations






(The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. 2024 COSSUP State Grantee Approaches to Addressing Substance Use in Communities. (2024). Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Training and Technical Assistance

The COSSUP TTA program supports communities by promoting peer-to-peer learning opportunities, providing expert speakers and trainers for conferences and workshops, and facilitating cross-system strategic planning to help communities identify resources, set priorities, and create actionable goals. It also offers access to key materials such as policies, guidelines, and data-sharing agreements, and enhances prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) by fostering coordination among state and national stakeholders.³

Type of Funded Activities

 REENTRY SERVICES 11 states created or expanded services to support individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) who are reentering the community after incarceration	 LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVERSION 16 states created pre- or post-arrest diversion programs to divert individuals with SUD out of the criminal justice system and into treatment	 DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING 8 states improved local data collection and sharing across public safety, corrections, health, and behavioral health
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(The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. 2024 COSSUP State Grantee Approaches to Addressing Substance Use in Communities. (2024). Bureau of Justice Statistics)

COSSUP grants aim to reduce overdose deaths and improve access to treatment and recovery services.

State-based grants also partner with local jurisdictions to improve:

- Reentry Services
- Law Enforcement Diversion
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Data Collection and Sharing
- Youth and Family Programming
- Community Outreach and Education
- Naloxone Distribution
- Emergency Response Services
- Court-Based Programs
- Harm Reduction
- Peers
- Housing and Transportation

Facts and Data

- Between 2000 and 2021, more than 1 million people in the United States older than age 14 died of a drug-involved overdose.⁴
- In 2023, an estimated 48.5 million Americans aged 12 and older, accounting for 16.7 percent of the population, experienced a substance use disorder.⁵

References

1. U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2023).
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2. U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2023).
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3. U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2023).
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4. RTI International. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Use Programming and Training and Technical Assistance (2024).
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5. U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2023).
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