

Expanding Access to MAT in County Criminal Justice Settings Project Background

The overall goal of this project is to increase access to MAT in jails and drug courts. County teams are required to commit to increasing access to at least two forms of FDA-approved medications for treatment of opioid use disorder. Each county starts at a different point in access to MAT and need not end at the same point. Therefore, individual county goals are different, depending on how far along the county is regarding the implementation of MAT in the criminal justice system.

In June 2018, Health Management Associates (HMA) launched the first cohort of this Learning Collaborative. Teams from 23 counties submitted successful applications to participate in the original collaborative, which was funded for eight months. Based on the progress and enthusiasm of the teams, and additional federal funding, the Learning Collaborative expanded to 18 months and a second cohort of counties was solicited. In spring 2020, more counties joined, bringing the current total to 32 counties which cover more than 80% of the state's population. With funding under SAMHSA's second State Opioid Response to the Opioid Crisis grant (SOR 2), all 32 counties are eligible to continue in the Learning Collaborative through August 2022, and several more counties may be added in early 2021. SOR 2 also expanded to include treatment of methamphetamine/stimulant use disorders.