

# RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR STATE PRISONERS (RSAT)

The purpose of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) Program is to break the cycle of drugs and violence by reducing the demand for, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs.

According to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics special report on substance use, dependence, and abuse in correctional facilities, 58 percent of state prison inmates and 63 percent of local jail inmates met the medical criteria for alcohol or substance addiction.<sup>1</sup> However, only 28 percent of adults incarcerated in state prisons and 22 percent of adults held in local jails received any type of treatment services.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, only 16.6 percent of correctional facilities throughout the United States offered treatment in specialized settings that can produce better outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

The RSAT Program supports state, territorial, local, and tribal governments to develop residential and aftercare services that emphasize partnerships between correctional staff and the treatment community to help adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) break the cycle of addiction.

**Authorizing Legislation:** Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322).

**First Year of Appropriation:** 1996.

**Administering Agency:** Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

<sup>1</sup>Bronson, Jennifer, et al., June 2017 (revised August 2020), *Drug Use, Dependence, and Abuse Among State Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2007-2009, Special Report*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 250546. Available online at: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/dudaspi0709.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2010, *Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population*, New York, NY: Columbia University. Available online at: <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/addiction-research/reports/behind-bars-ii-substance-abuse-and-america%E2%80%99s-prison-population>.

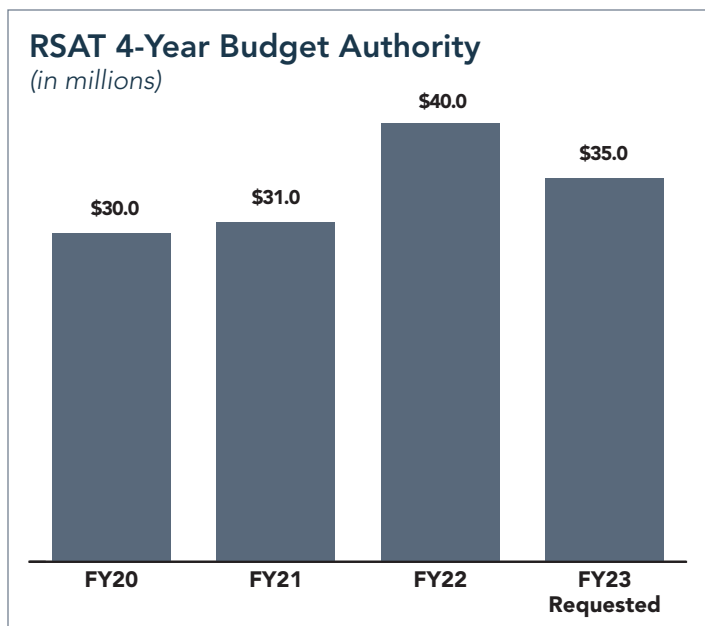
<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

## DOJ Strategic Goal and Objective

**DOJ Strategic Goal 3:** Reduce violent crime and promote public safety.

**Strategic Objective 3.1:** Combat violent crime, promote safe communities, and uphold the rights of victims of crime.

**Who Can Apply for Funding:** All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories may apply for a formula grant award. In order to be eligible to receive awards under this program, each project must be supported by at least 25 percent nonfederal funding (i.e., matching funds). In addition, state offices may award subgrants to state agencies and units of local government, including federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions.



**How Funds Are Distributed:** Each state is allocated a base amount of 0.4 percent of the total available funds. The remaining funds are then divided based on the ratio of each state's prison population to the total state prison population. Awards are made in the fiscal year of the appropriation and may be expended during the following 3 years, for a total of 4 years. The annual RSAT allocations are available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/residential-substance-abuse-treatment-state-prisoners-rsat-program/overview>.

## Program Goals

- Ensure that RSAT Program participants receive aftercare services coordinated between the correctional treatment program and other social service and rehabilitation programs, such as education and job training, parole supervision, halfway houses, and self-help and peer group programs.
- Ensure that states coordinate RSAT activities with any Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-funded state and/or local programs that address the target population.
- Limit residential prison programs to adults with 6 to 12 months remaining in their confinement so they can be released after completing the program instead of returning to prison.
- Separate the treatment population from the general correctional population and base the program's design on effective science- and evidence-based practices.

## Accomplishments

- In FY 2021, RSAT Programs provided SUD treatment services to approximately 21,000 individuals. Participants receiving services in jail were recommended to remain in the program for a minimum of 3 months, while participants in prison-based programs were required to remain in the program for a minimum of 6 months. In addition to receiving treatment for SUDs, many program participants also received cognitive behavioral therapy and employment, transitional housing, and/or mental health support services. In 2021, nearly 69 percent of jail- and prison-based participants successfully completed all the RSAT Program requirements.



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- Continued to promulgate the national standards for prison and jail substance use disorder treatment, as outlined in [Promising Practices Guidelines \(PPG\) for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment](#). In 2019, BJA initiated a national program to assist RSAT Programs in meeting the RSAT Program's standards by creating and piloting a fidelity assessment of them in several states. In 2021, the PPGs were updated, and the fidelity assessment interview was revised to include updated research and program highlights. To date, 51 assessments have been completed in 22 states with corresponding training and technical assistance (TTA) recommendations to improve services in alignment with the PPGs. It is expected that a fidelity assessment will have been conducted of at least one program in each U.S. state and territory by the end of FY 2022. The efficacy of this assistance will continue to be measured and adjusted, as required, in conjunction with updates and revisions to the PPGs.
- In previous fiscal years, the RSAT TTA provider worked with prisons and jails to conduct onsite training for correctional teams interested in replicating the services of model programs. Due to travel restrictions in FYs 2020 and 2021, the RSAT TTA provider increased the number of virtual training webinars and online technical assistance via teleconferencing and developed a geo-map of RSAT Programs that link to a compendium of descriptions highlighting them.
- Continued to champion the expansion of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) as an essential component of successful reentry for inmates with alcohol and opioid use disorders. Jails and prisons with model best practice MAT programs have been showcased through national webinars, onsite training sessions, and a national meeting of prison, jail, and juvenile correctional

## Application and Award History

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Amount Available for Funding (in millions)	\$27.1 <sup>^</sup>	\$27.2 <sup>^</sup>	\$27.25 <sup>^</sup>	\$29.6 <sup>^</sup>	\$34.9 <sup>^</sup>
Total Funding Awarded (in millions)	\$27.1	\$27.2	\$27.25	\$29.6	TBD
Number of Participants*	22,684	28,800	26,892	20,629	TBD

<sup>^</sup> Amount does not include funds used for management and administration, peer review, or other authorized purposes.

\* Number of participants is calculated based on the calendar year.

practitioners. In 2021, approximately 50 percent of all RSAT Programs offered MAT to individuals who were deemed eligible.

- Produced and released a training video, [Jail MAT Begins with Immediate Clinical Intake](#). The video showcases the comprehensive 4-hour intake at the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, where every individual entering the facility is screened for mental health and substance use disorders, and the referral to treatment and community reintegration planning begins immediately. A follow-up video, [Philadelphia Dept of Prisons Intake/Screening COVID-19 Protocols](#), was developed to highlight the necessary health and safety precautions taken due to COVID-19 while continuing to provide medication for opioid use disorders during the pandemic.
- Published and disseminated five manuals and toolkits for RSAT Program staff and leadership: [Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Juveniles](#), [Specialized Programming and Treatment Issues for Veterans in Jails and Prisons](#), [Treating Clients with Methamphetamine and Stimulant Use Disorders](#), [Revised Promising Practices Guidelines \(PPG\) for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment](#), and [Going the Distance: Remote Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programming and Recovery Support Options](#).
- Presented monthly, national webinars on topics specifically focused on RSAT and correctional SUD treatment generally. Topics ranged from "Opioid Use Disorder Treatment and Reentry Best Practices with Short Jail Stays," to "Beyond Drug Courts: Two Alternative Court-Based Strategies for Preventing



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Overdose Post-Arrest," to "Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Reentry Support and Success" and "Eliminating stigma surrounding SUD treatment among clients with HIV/AIDS."

- From December 9–10, 2020, joining with the National Criminal Justice Association, BJA convened RSAT representatives for an FY 2021 virtual annual meeting on correctional MAT programming, reentry planning, fidelity assessment interviews, and other TTA offerings. From November 16–18, 2021, in collaboration with the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program, BJA convened RSAT representatives for an FY 2022 virtual annual meeting, which offered additional workshops on reentry and continuing care, tablet technology for treatment planning and recovery support, and therapeutic communities in methamphetamine treatment.

**For additional information, please visit:** [BJA Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program](#) or the [RSAT Training and Technical Assistance website](#).

## ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources, including grants and funding, training and technical assistance, to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit [bja.ojp.gov](http://bja.ojp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.