

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Hub & Spoke SYSTEM (H&SS)
SOR IV Informational Webinar on September 5, 2024

Bridge Funding and SOR IV

1. Will the SOR IV grant be for "3" Years?

SOR IV funding starts on 9/30/24 and closes on 9/29/27; however, two separate performance periods will use SOR IV funding.

The first is for bridge funding with a period of performance from 9/30/24 to 1/31/25 which is only for SOR III grantees who are eligible and choose to opt in.

The second performance period is from 1/1/25 to 9/29/27 and is for organizations that are selected for SOR IV funding through the competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process.

For SOR III grantees who successfully compete and are awarded 33 months of SOR IV funding, there is a one-month overlap of bridge funding during the month of January 2025.

2. Will we receive the slides and recording?

Yes, the slides and recording will be sent to all grantees, regardless of their attendance at the webinar, and posted to the H&SS website.

3. Are all agencies eligible to apply for SOR IV even if they were funded under SOR III?

Yes, agencies can apply to the SOR IV RFA if they meet the eligibility criteria described in the forthcoming RFA.

4. Will SOR IV be available to programs that received previous SOR funding?

Yes, agencies can apply for SOR IV as long as they meet the eligibility criteria that will be described in the RFA. Receiving previous iterations of SOR funding under the Hub and Spoke System does not exclude an agency from applying for Hub and Spoke under SOR IV.

5. I heard you say there are no new patients during the bridge period. Our program stabilizes and transfers patients to appropriate medical homes for continuation of treatment, which means our patient load can fluctuate. Also,

clients come and go and then come back. Does this mean we should no longer offer this service? Would it be acceptable to have the same number of patients?

The intention is simply to retain existing patients with bridge funding. As such, **no new clients (that will be funded with SOR IV dollars)** may be taken during this time period. The new SOR IV service period will begin around January 2025 upon selection of new Hubs & Spokes and when contracts are established.

Of course, agencies may accept new patients under other funding sources, and all agencies are required to assist clients with applying for Medi-Cal. In most cases, Medi-Cal may be billed for SUD treatment. As a reminder, SOR funding is only for those patients who are not covered under any other funding source, and who did not qualify upon applying for Medi-Cal.

6. Are the allowable costs available for SOR IV yet? This would assist programs in deciding whether to apply for SOR IV.

Yes, the Allowable Cost Fact Sheet SOR IV will be distributed to all SOR III grantees and will accompany both the RFA and the survey about bridge funding.

7. What do we have to do to participate in bridge funding?

Complete a bridge funding survey via email.

8. Do we need to apply for the bridge funding?

There is no “application” for bridge funding. However, SOR III grantees must inform AHP that they are interested in receiving funding by completing the bridge funding survey.

9. What is the time period for bridge funding?

Bridge funding starts 9/30/24 and ends 1/31/25.

10. Do organizations applying for SOR IV need to be part of DMC-ODS?

All organizations providing SUD treatment must be Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) certified through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). It is recommended that they are a part of DMC-ODS if their county of operation is a DMC-ODS county.

All organizations applying for SOR IV must have the ability to bill Medi-Cal and only utilize SOR IV if a client is not eligible for Medi-Cal and cannot be covered under any other funding sources.

11. What is the difference between the AHP monthly data reports for SOR IV and the UCLA quarterly data reports?

The required UCLA quarterly data report, accessed through the [Data Reporting Form \(qualtrics.com\)](#), includes the data agencies have been collecting and submitting since the start of SOR III. UCLA reporting will continue to be required in SOR IV. It is used for statewide evaluation.

The AHP monthly data reports will include monthly invoicing and more specific data points not currently collected which are related to SOR IV's new operations.

12. Can we accept new patients? We are not going to be able to turn people away.

Please see the answer above for Q5 – grantees may accept new patients under other funding sources; however, no new patients can be accepted and treated with SOR IV dollars prior to the beginning of new SOR IV contracts, which will occur around January 2025.

13. I want to confirm whether communication about whether we were selected for the bridge funding has already been sent out.

Letters were sent to non-eligible organizations on 9/5/24. If the organization did not receive a letter indicating non-eligibility for bridge funding, the organization is eligible to opt in through the bridge survey.

14. If a grantee applies for bridge funding, how soon will they receive an answer? Several staff salaries are attached to SOR III funding.

All SOR III grantees who opt in to bridge funding through the bridge funding survey will be awarded some amount of SOR IV funding. The funding amount is limited, and all funding is contingent on DHCS approval and funding by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA).

15. Will there be cost reporting for bridge funding? If so, how will it differ from SOR III?

There will be cost reporting for bridge funding (9/30/24 through 1/31/25) at the end of the four months. More details on cost reporting will be provided at the start of the bridge funding period.

16. Can we apply for an additional location for SOR IV?

The RFA is a competitive process; each agency that meets the eligibility criteria described in the forthcoming RFA is eligible to apply.

17. Do all organizations have to apply for SOR IV bridge funding if they were funded under SOR III?

See Q8 Above. Applying for bridge funding is optional. Please opt in or opt out through the bridge funding survey.

18. We will still be taking new people, but basically, we can't bill SOR IV?

Please see the answer above in Q5 and Q12 – organizations may accept new patients under other funding sources; however, no new patients can be accepted and treated with SOR IV dollars prior to the beginning of new SOR IV contracts, which will occur around January 2025.

19. If we are deemed ineligible for bridge funding, can we apply for SOR IV funding?

Yes, organizations deemed ineligible for bridge funding may still apply for SOR IV funding through the competitive RFA process.

20. If funds are limited, will that impact the number of patients that can be served?

See the response to Q18. AHP cannot direct organizations regarding the number of patients sites can serve. Each organization's internal management will guide patient load capacity.

21. Will the bridge funding be provided upfront or at the end after invoicing?

Funding will be provided at the end of the bridge period which ends on 1/31/25. Agencies will have until 2/15/25 to submit invoices. No invoices will be accepted after 2/15/25.

Use of Funds

22. Can funds only be used for existing patients during the bridge period?

Yes.

23. Will injectable medications be covered under SOR IV?

Yes, injectable longer-acting buprenorphine formulations are an approved OUD medication under SOR IV and will be covered.

Invoicing

24. Why the move from quarterly to monthly invoices?

AHP's goal is to improve cost accounting and be able to generate real-time budget reports.

As the administrative entity, AHP will provide necessary compliance support.

25. When is the final invoice due for SOR III?

The final invoice with the final cost report is due no later than 10/15/24 to ap2@ahpnet.com.

SOR III Wrap Up

26. When is the final narrative report due?

9/6/24. This deadline has already passed.

27. When is the final invoice due for SOR III?

The final invoice with the final cost report is due between 9/30/24 and 10/15/24.

28. Could you please confirm the due date for the current (7/01/24 to 9/29/24) data report to UCLA?

UCLA data is due by the close of business on 9/30/24.

29. Are final invoices also due by 9/30?

See Q27; final invoices and final cost reports are due between 9/30/24 and 10/15/24.

30. Cost reports were not mentioned in the slide deck but were discussed at the last open office hours. To confirm, will cost reports be due with final invoices?

Yes.

31. Is the 9/30/24 deadline for data reporting the opening date or the deadline?

Close of business on 9/30/24 is the deadline for submitting UCLA data.

32. Is there a 15-day grace period for submitting the UCLA data report?

No, UCLA data is due at the close of business on 9/30/24.

33. Please share the link to the Final SOR III narrative report.

https://advocatesforhuman.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cD7vjBDACJsqPwa

The final report was due 9/06/24.

GPRA

Note: AHP has not included all questions or responses to Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) related questions from the 9/5/24 SOR IV Informational Webinar. AHP and Aurrera Health will provide updated guidance and training on GPRA-related efforts when SAMSHA guidance is available.

34. If we receive SOR IV funding, will GPRA data transfer over from SOR III? Basically, if patients were provided intake GPRAs in SOR III, will they have to be given intake GPRAs again once SOR IV starts?

A new SOR IV baseline interview will be required. For SOR III patients transitioning to SOR IV, a 'transition discharge' must be completed before the new SOR IV intake. The SOR IV baseline interview will not appear until the SOR III 'transition discharge' and New Active Record form is submitted. Aurrera Health Group will provide training on completing the process in REDCap for patients transitioning from SOR III to SOR IV.

35. During the bridge period, will GPRAs be required for services provided by the Peer Support Specialist, whose position is currently grant-funded, if the patient is not a new admit?

Yes, GPRA would be required in this instance. See Q34 related to SOR III to SOR IV transition in REDCap.

36. Are there any changes to GPRA requirements for bridge funding? Do we need GPRAs for new patients during bridge funding?

Sites must not use grant funds to cover new patients during the bridge period, therefore GPRA should only be completed with continuing patients. The requirements for which continuing patients receive a GPRA will not change (either funded by the grant or seen by a staff member funded by the grant).