



Brandi Jancaitis, MPH
Director, Veteran and Family Support
Virginia Department of Veterans Services



Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services Program (SOS)



- DVS/VVFS developed the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program as of **July 1, 2022**
- SOS provides outreach and training to Federal, State, and local partners and **community and research grants** to enhance prevention, intervention, and recovery services statewide.
- **SOS team includes five full time positions** plus part time positions and/or DoD SkillBridge Interns (when needed) to meet internal and external outreach, training, grant development/monitoring and oversight duties.



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Mission: The SOS program will enhance understanding of suicide prevention and opioid addiction among SMVF to build and improve community capacity and services. Together, we will build community support around getting the **RIGHT HELP, RIGHT NOW.**

SOS Program Outreach, Technical Assistance, and Grants:

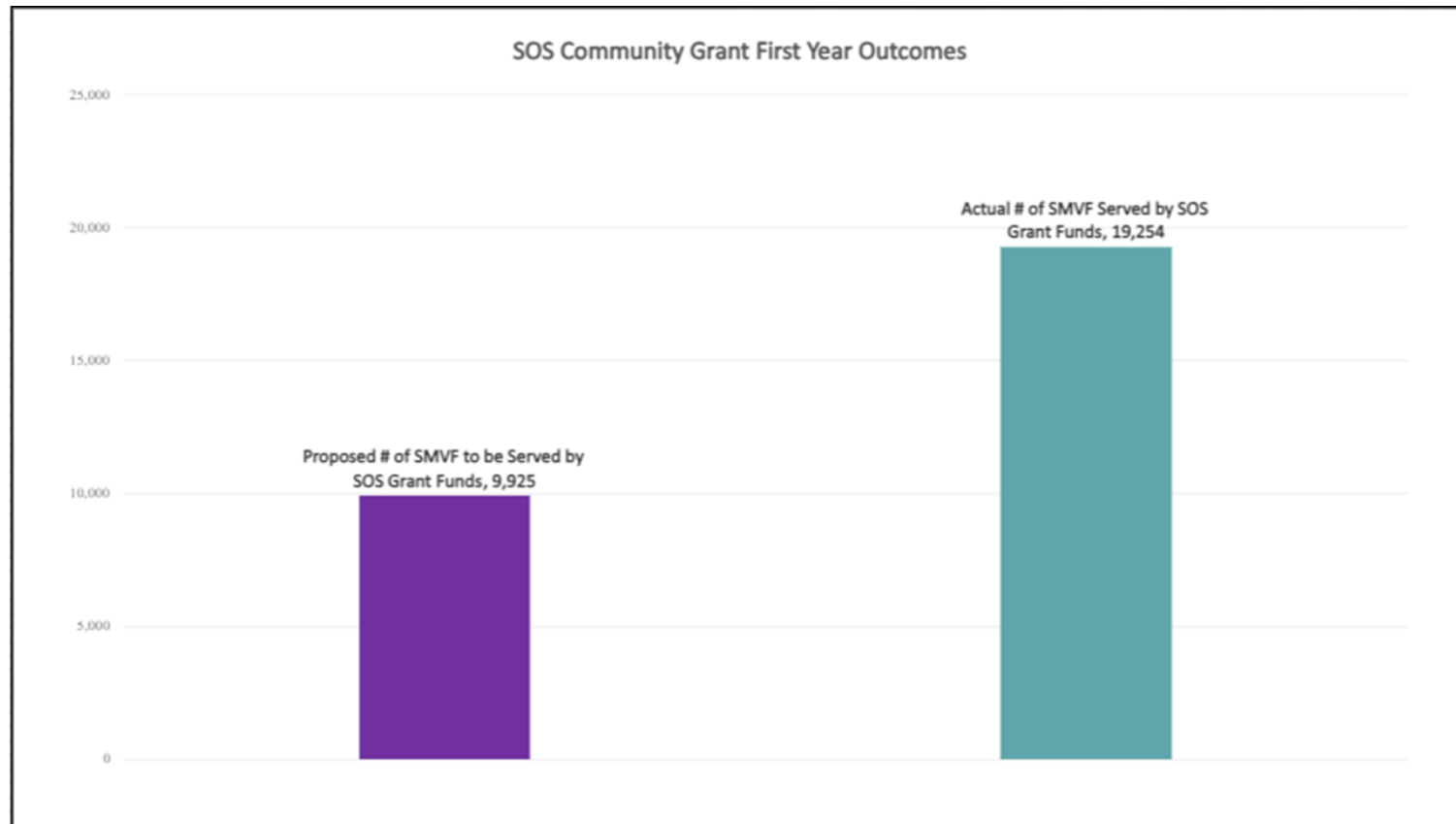
- SOS team provides technical assistance to Federal and community partners, and citizens.
 - Coordinates the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide (in 7th year) team with Veterans and Defense Affairs and Health and Human Resource agencies
- Grantees implement, study, and expand best practices in veteran peer support, suicide prevention training, risk screening, and clinical therapies.

Grants total:

- Fifty-Nine community grants have been awarded totaling \$12,703,645 Million.
- Eight research grants awarded as of November 1, 2023, totaling almost \$1,650,000.

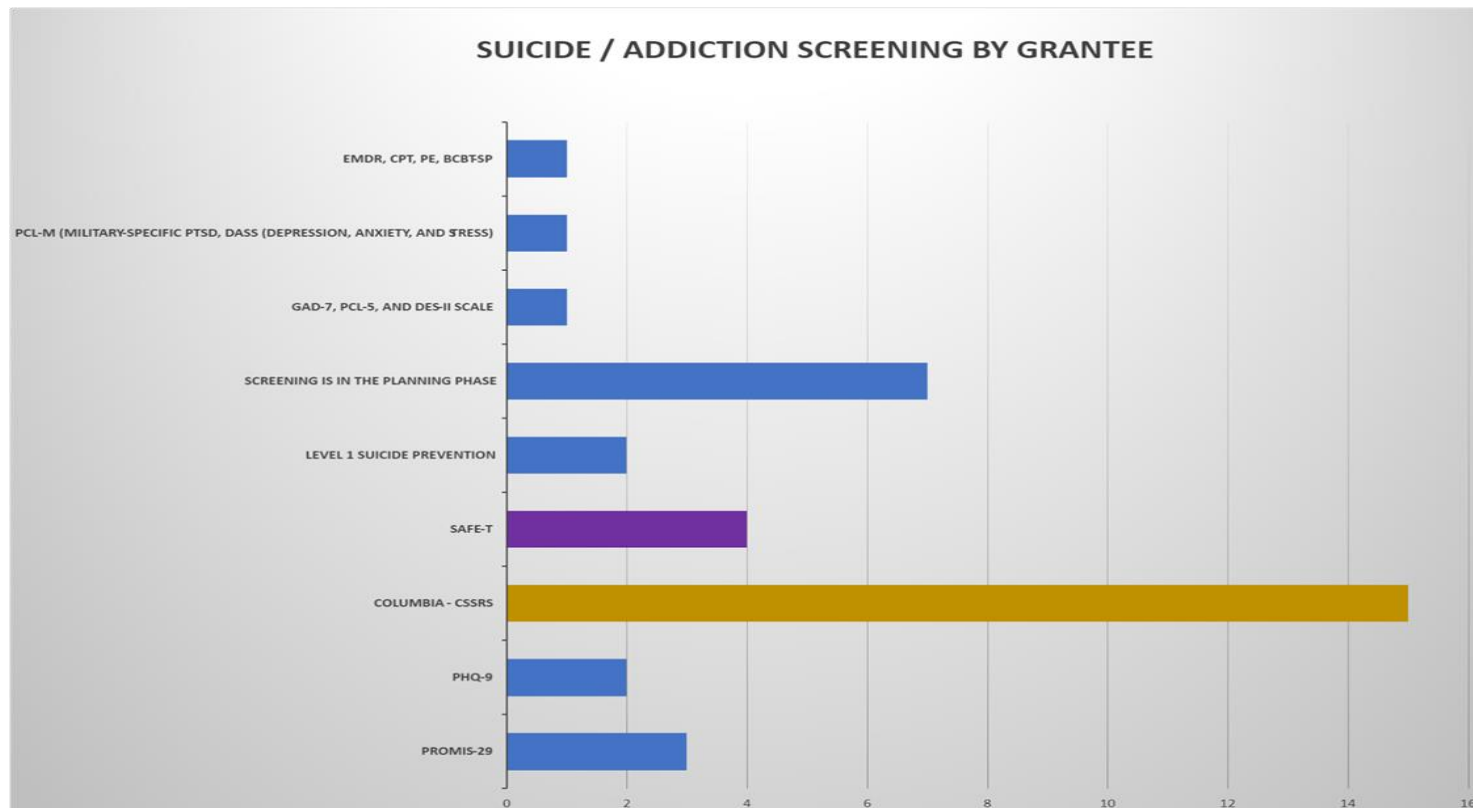
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SOS Grantee Data: (June 2023 – June 2024) Grantees significantly exceeded projected target (9,925) 41 grantee organizations engaged and supported **19,254 military-connected individuals and families**.



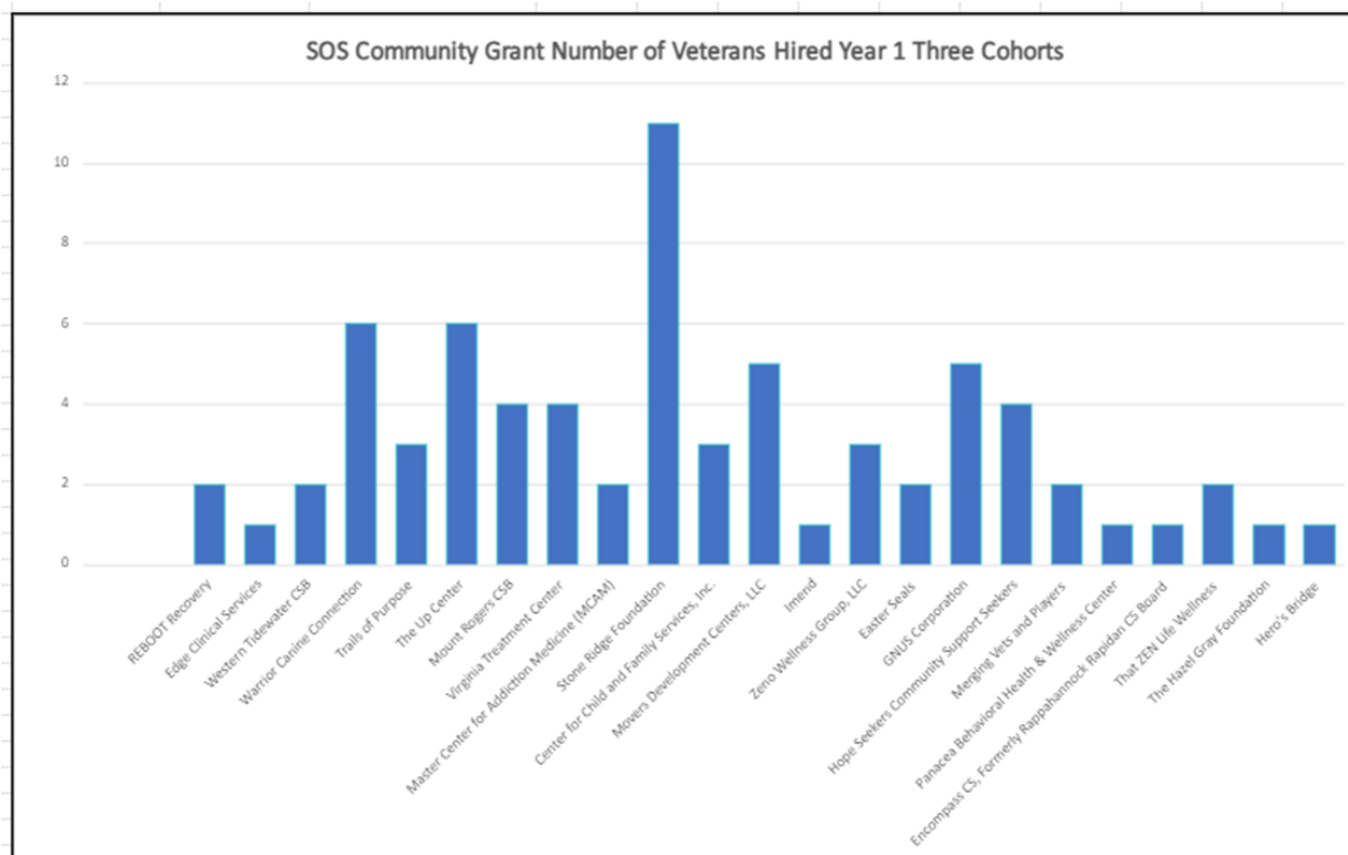
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SOS grantees utilize a variety of evidence-based assessments (listed below) to screen for behavioral health needs and suicide risk. After screening, SOS grantees provide support directly or refer to other partner agencies for additional support.



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In addition to providing direct behavioral health and supportive services to individuals and families, SOS grantees hired military-connected individuals in their staffing models contributing to DVS priority to support the entrepreneurial and career development goals of SMVF in local communities.





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Research Grantees

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Norfolk State University

New River Community College

George Mason University

Duke University

W2 Consulting

Yale University



SOS Partners and Technical Assistance



The SOS team collaborates with stakeholders on important issues that impact the Commonwealth.

- Right Help Right Now
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community
- Engagement Partnership Coordinators (CEPC) Working Group
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- Suicide Prevention and Interagency Group (SPIAG)
- Community Services Board (CSB) Service Member, Veteran, and Family SMVF Navigator Working Group
- 988 Virginia Campaign
- Harm Reduction Production-Naloxone Distribution
- Lock and Talk Virginia (DBHDS)



Suicide Mortality Review (SMR)



Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) is a multidisciplinary process to help us better understand why people in our community die by suicide and to help us identify how we can prevent these deaths.

Selected for Cooperative Agreement with Veterans Affairs to develop SMR teams in Virginia

- Hosted by SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families Technical Assistance Center and Policy Research Associates, Inc.
- Receive technical assistance to strengthen behavioral health systems and services for SMVF
- Interagency cooperation
- Develop implementation plan for SMR or SMR related efforts in Virginia
- Data gathering (secured legislation and data sharing agreement for vital records)



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Program Lead Point of Contact

Angela Porter, Ph.D., CSOTP, Director
Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS)

angela.porter@dvs.virginia.gov
804-786-0596 (Office)