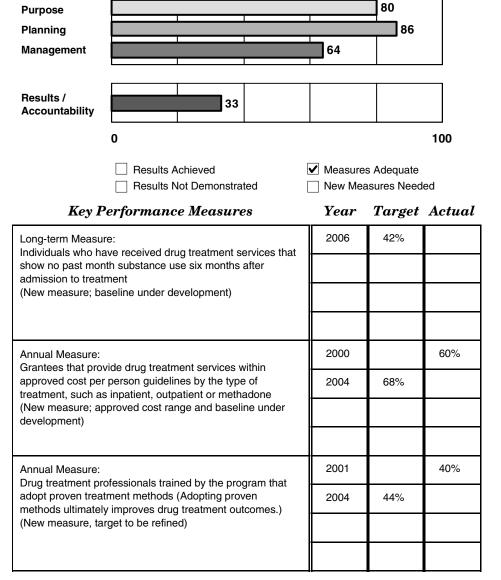
Program: Substance Abuse Treatment Programs of Regional and National Significance

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Rating: Adequate

Program Type: Competitive Grants

Program Summary:

Substance Abuse Treatment Programs of Regional and National Significance is comprised of a variety of grants and activities intended to improve the quality and availability of drug treatment services.

The assessment indicates:

- 1. The overall purpose of the program is clear, but the relationship between activities to expand access to drug treatment and activities to improve the quality of drug treatment, such as training, communications and regulatory efforts, is less clear.
- 2. Grant awards are based on merit and competition is open.
- 3. The program has not regularly used performance information to improve outcomes and some activities have never been evaluated. The program also lacks data to indicate progress on newly adopted performance benchmarks.
- 4. A previous evaluation of drug treatment services grants indicates an impact. The 1997 National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study indicates the program's treatment services demonstration grants were effective. Key findings include drug use declined from 73% to 38% one year after treatment, selling drugs declined 78%, arrests declined 64%, employment increased from 51% to 60%, and alcohol/drug-related medical visits declined 53%.
- 5. Evidence of impact is not available for research related activities and other efforts.

In response to these findings, the Administration:

- 1. Proposes \$200 million as part of the President's drug treatment initiative to expand access to treatment using vouchers. Vouchers will enable individuals to determine where they will receive treatment. The initiative will involve a variety of settings, including criminal justice and health care systems, to reach out to those in need of treatment and determine the type and level of services needed.
- $2.\ Proposes\ \$50$ million at the 2003 Budget level for performance-based grants to states.
- 3. Proposes to redirect \$8 million from research related activities and other efforts lacking evidence of effectiveness to drug treatment services grants.
- 4. Will increase support for the National Treatment Outcome Monitoring System to provide current data on the effectiveness of drug treatment services.
- 5. Will further improve the effectiveness of services grants by introducing grant funding incentives and reductions based on performance.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	
291	358	557	