

FACES & VOICES

OF RECOVERY

RECOVERY COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM (RCSP)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Program of Regional and National Significance

RCSP grantees are dramatically improving opportunities for individuals to experience long-term recovery from addiction by linking professional treatment and the criminal justice systems with opportunities for peer and other recovery support services for people seeking or newly in recovery. Grantee innovations include recovery community centers, peer recovery coaching and mentoring and other recovery support services. The RCSP program has pioneered the delivery of these services by faith-based and recovery community organizations by providing funding to organizations that in turn mobilize volunteers/peers in the recovery community to deliver them. In FY 2008 SAMHSA/CSAT did not fund any new RCSP grantees and the Administration has proposed to eliminate the program in its FY 2009 budget proposal.

Currently 23 recovery community-and faith-based organizations receive support. The grants' average awards have been \$350,000 per year for each grantee for four years and grantees receive technical assistance to carry out their projects more effectively. RCSP grants were initially used (1998) to organize the recovery community to provide public education and affect systems and policy change. In 2002, SAMHSA/CSAT changed RCSP's focus and began supporting organizations that enabled peers in stable recovery and other community members to help others avoid relapse and move into long-term recovery.

EVIDENCE-BASED AND EFFECTIVE

The services are based on evidence-based practices for recovery and grantees are meeting performance measures. Recent data collected by SAMHSA in 2007 demonstrates the effectiveness of RCSP grantees in achieving successful outcomes.

For example, the target for abstinence for all SAMHSA Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) is 63%. RCSP grantees actual reported abstinence rate was 85%. The most significant achievement was in the area of social consequences. While the PRNS target was 67%, RCSP grantees were able to demonstrate a 94% rate.

Other GPRA measurements include employment, with RCSP grantees reporting 10% above the PRNS target of 52% and no criminal justice involvement, with RCSP grantees reporting 1% above the PRNS target of 96%. In the area of housing, RCSP grantees reported 61% success in securing housing, far above the 53% PRNS target.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and other mutual support groups; professional in- and out-patient treatment are not recovery support services.

LEVERAGING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

Grantees are leveraging tens of thousands of volunteer hours from individuals in their communities each year. These community member volunteers have provided peer coaching and mentoring and a variety of educational and skill-training services, including help in securing housing, education and employment; building constructive family and other personal relationships; managing stress; participating in alcohol-and other drug-free social and recreational activities; and obtaining services from multiple systems such as the primary and mental health care, child welfare, and criminal justice systems.

Eleven of the current 23 grantees (Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), El Paso Alliance, Medication Assisted Recovery Services Project (MARS) Project, New York City AIDS Service Center, Northern Ohio Recovery Association, Relief Nursery, Inc., PRO-ACT, Recovery Consultants of Atlanta Walden House, Recovery Network of New York and Women in New Recovery) leveraged **over 52,000 volunteer hours in 2007 alone.**

The demand for RCSP grants - over 140 applications for the most recent round of grants - indicates the level of interest and commitment to engaging citizens in making it possible for others to recover from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

Year:	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Awards:	\$2.4 million	\$2.8 million	0
Number:	7	8	0