



Center for **Social Innovation**

Translating Research, Transforming Human Services

CALL FOR CAPABILITIES STATEMENTS 2015 BRSS TACS POLICY ACADEMY

Center for Social Innovation
Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale
Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS)

Deadline for Submission: February 18, 2015

The Center for Social Innovation (C4), contracted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to operate the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) invites State, Territory, and Tribal government substance use disorder and mental health agencies to participate in the 2015 BRSS TACS Policy Academy.

What is the BRSS TACS Policy Academy?

The Policy Academy offers States, Territories, and Tribal governments the opportunity to advance the implementation of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems by bringing together stakeholders and change agents from different backgrounds and agencies to build communication, remove barriers, and develop Action Plans. The 2015 Policy Academy is focused on promoting Individual, Family, and Community Health and Wellness. Five teams will be selected to participate in the 2015 Policy Academy, which will offer expert facilitation and support to help develop attainable, outcome-focused Action Plans. **Each team that successfully creates an approved Action Plan will be eligible for a \$75,000 fixed-price subcontract to help support Action Plan implementation.**

The Policy Academy includes the following:

- **Virtual Kick-Off Meeting (April 27, 2015)**
- **Onsite Team Planning Meeting 1 (April 28-29, 2015):** A facilitator and BRSS TACS faculty member will travel to the team's chosen venue for a two-day planning visit to coach and guide the team in evaluating strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT), developing a common vision, and establishing priorities for the Action Plan.
- **Virtual Knowledge-Building Sessions (May 4-12, 2015):** Small webinar sessions for Policy Academy teams with subject matter experts to provide concrete strategies teams can use for implementing recovery-oriented supports, service, and systems in their jurisdictions.
- **Onsite Team Planning Meeting 2 (May 21, 2015):** Teams will reconvene to complete an Action Plan for implementation of a project of their choosing, with the assistance of their faculty member and facilitator. Teams that successfully complete an approved Action Plan will be eligible for a \$75,000 fixed-price subcontract to help support Action Plan implementation.
- **Virtual Learning Community:** Following the Policy Academy, teams will have the opportunity to participate in a learning community to share ideas, challenges, and strategies.

Who is Eligible?

All States, Territories, and Tribal Governments are encouraged to participate. Territories and Tribal governments are especially encouraged to participate. Tribal governments are eligible if they have tribal governing authority over civil or criminal matters as authorized by a tribe. **Past Policy Academy participants are not eligible.**

2015 Focus: Individual, Family, and Community Health and Wellness

The theme of the 2015 Policy Academy is Individual, Family, and Community Health and Wellness. The Policy Academy will assist States, Territories, and Tribal governments to build their capacity to promote the health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities by enhancing the integration of services to address the needs of individuals in recovery from mental health and/or substance use disorders. Teams are asked to focus on one of five domains. The domains are pathways to developing the infrastructure and capacity necessary for recovery oriented systems of care and operationalizing the goal of Individual, Family, and Community Health and Wellness. Domains are described below, with examples drawn from past Policy Academy participants:

Domain 1: Recovery-Based Principles, Policies, and Procedures

A recovery-oriented mission and principles with system-wide consensus is a critical step in creating and operationalizing recovery-oriented systems of care. Agency policies and procedures should also align with the mission and principles, and be culturally appropriate for the populations being served.

Example: *The Michigan state team worked together to develop a recovery policy and established ten regional Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs). The team developed an inventory of recovery instruments and now requires each state region to select an instrument to implement and measure progress against, reporting back to the state. This innovative approach includes financial incentives attached to performance on each region's selected recovery measurement tool.*

Domain 2: Financing Strategies and Sustainability

Getting the right financing strategy in place is critical to sustain key components of recovery-oriented systems of care, such as peer-delivered recovery support services.

Example: *West Virginia established an ongoing BRSS TACS Funding Acquisition Steering Committee, commissioned to research and identify diverse, sustainable funding resources for recovery supports within the state of West Virginia. As a result, the team is exploring Managed Care Organizations as a payer source, and is in ongoing discussions with the State Medicaid Office regarding establishing a billing code for peer support services.*

Domain 3: Workforce Development, Training, and Certification

It is critical to develop a workforce that is knowledgeable and capable of providing recovery-oriented care. Integrating trained and certified peer support workers, and ensuring their support and supervision, is a critical component of a recovery-oriented system of care.

Example: *Ohio established a combined mental health and substance use disorder peer training and certification program as a step toward creating a trained, credentialed peer workforce in the state. The combined effort has created parity between the two groups for the cost and professionalization of the certification training. Additionally, the state-approved and issued certification has established a system-wide recognized and respected workforce. As a result, certain service settings, such as health homes, will now only hire certified peer support workers.*

Domain 4: Communication and Information Technology

Developing awareness and understanding of the components of recovery-oriented systems of care is an important part of gaining support. In addition, health information technology can be an important tool in promoting recovery.

Example: *Kentucky focused on increasing awareness of and access to supported employment for young adults in recovery from substance use and/or mental health disorders. They conducted a survey of young people in Kentucky on their knowledge of and interest in using existing employment supports. They learned that while most young people are interested in these supports, they are unaware of how to access them. The results led to an online marketing campaign, including several YouTube videos, to support awareness.*

Domain 5: Research, Outcomes, and Quality Assurance

It is important to create and implement metrics to measure outcomes of activities to monitor progress toward recovery-oriented systems change and to ensure quality.

Example: *Rhode Island's goal was to measure and demonstrate the positive impact of peer support workers in the state. To accomplish this, they established an evaluation framework that can be used to assess the state's training and certification process and to justify expanded funding for peer recovery specialists and peer services in Rhode Island. The team is currently developing a system for measuring outcomes and process data on the integrated training and certification process.*

Schedule

Date	Activity
January 6, 2015	Call for Capability Statements Announced
January 27, 2015	Informational Webinar for Policy Academy: 3:00–4:00 p.m. EST
February 18, 2015	Submissions Due
March 9, 2015	Participants Notified
April 7-May 28	2015 BRSS TACS Policy Academy
April 7	Virtual Plenary: Policy Academy Kick-Off
April 28-29	Team Planning Meeting 1
May 4-12	Virtual Knowledge-Building Sessions
May 21	Team Planning Meeting 2
May 28	Virtual Plenary: Presentations of Action Plans
June 5, 2015	Team Action Plans Due

About BRSS TACS

In 2011, SAMHSA funded BRSS TACS to promote the widespread adoption of recovery concepts and practices throughout the United States. BRSS TACS serves as a coordinated effort to facilitate the adoption and implementation of recovery concepts, policies, practices, and services, leveraging previous and current accomplishments by SAMHSA and other leaders in the behavioral health recovery movement. The Center for Social Innovation (C4) has been contracted by SAMHSA to operate BRSS TACS. To learn more about BRSS TACS, visit the website at: www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs

HOW TO SUBMIT A CAPABILITY STATEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2015 BRSS TACS POLICY ACADEMY

Instructions

Capabilities Statements must be no longer than six single-spaced pages, in 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch document margins. Team bios and the cover sheet do not count against the page limit.

Submission Components

The following section describes the requirements for Capabilities Statements, which consist of: an introduction; a narrative (6 single-spaced pages maximum) that describes the team's strengths, challenges and goals, and the team's plan for meaningful involvement of individuals in recovery; and information about team members. Each section must be titled. Points will be awarded based on how well the Capabilities Statements meets the requirements. The final selection of Policy Academy participants will be based on evaluation score, geographic distribution, diversity, and other factors.

Introduction

Page Limit: N/A **Possible Points: 0**

Begin your statement with a 1-2 paragraph introduction that includes the following:

- The selected Domain (see Domains above)
- Rationale for selection of Domain
- A summary of goals
- Full name of entity submitting the Capabilities Statement
- Name and full contact information for the designated contact

Strengths and Challenges

Page Limit: 3 Possible Points: 25

Describe the current strengths to be enhanced and challenges to be addressed through the Policy Academy, related to the chosen Domain.

- Examples of strengths might include: a well-organized recovery community or consumer/family network; established recovery support services; strong recovery-oriented mission and recovery principles.
- Challenges might include: lack of knowledge about recovery-oriented care; resistance on the part of professional staff to work with peers; poor communication between substance abuse and mental health recovery communities; lack of funding for recovery supports.

For Tribal Governments and Territories:

- Tribal governments and Territories are encouraged to submit Capabilities Statements. BRSS TACS recognizes that many Tribal governments and Territories may use different language to talk about the recovery supports and infrastructure. In the narrative, describe your community assets, resources, and some of the barriers or challenges you face in addressing substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions among people in your jurisdiction.

Goals

Page Limit: 2 Possible Points: 20

Describe the goals you hope to achieve through the Policy Academy. It is not necessary to propose specific projects or activities, but rather overarching goals related to the chosen Domain and the overall theme of promoting health and wellness for individuals, families, and communities. The purpose of the Policy Academy is to assist your team to work together to identify, prioritize, and develop an Action Plan. Upon completion of an approved Action Plan, teams are eligible for a \$75,000 fixed-price subcontract for implementation.

- Teams may select goals that are tailored to their needs. Examples include:
 - A team that selects Domain 2 (Financing Strategies) might propose to explore the role of housing choice to support holistic recovery for people in recovery from mental health and substance use disorders. Specific activities and outcomes to achieve this goal would be detailed in the team's Action Plan developed through the Policy Academy.
 - A team that selects Domain 1 (Mission and Values) may have a goal of working with different stakeholder groups (substance use treatment providers, Indian Health Services, local leaders, mental health clinicians, recovery communities, and employment programs) to create a common vision and mission and work together to expand recovery supports.

For Tribal Governments and Territories:

- Tribal governments and Territories are highly encouraged to submit Capabilities Statements. Narratives should focus on what the team would like to accomplish by participating in the Policy Academy and how the team plans to build upon existing strengths and address one or more specific challenges.

Meaningful Involvement of Individuals in Recovery

Page Limit: 1 Possible Points: 10

Include a description of how your team will include meaningful involvement of individuals in recovery (peers) from mental health and/or substance use disorders. Please list the name of each peer, peer run organization, and/or recovery community organization and describe how he or she or the organization will be involved.

Team Members

Page Limit: N/A **Possible Points: 45**

Policy Academy teams should include 12-15 members. Effective teams will have members with policy-making influence from the different agencies, departments, and groups that need to be involved to meet the team's goals. In developing the team, please identify the leadership and team members necessary to create an effective Action Plan to remove barriers and expand opportunities for individual, family and community wellness. Please include the following information for a minimum of 9 of your 12-15 team members. The length of this section does not count against the page limit.

- Name, title, organization
- A one-paragraph bio
- Designation of role:
 - o Team Leader (typically Point of Contact for the submission and at the Policy Academy).
 - o Team Coordinator (supports overall team activities).

State teams should include the following members. Please state the designation with that team member's bio in the submission.

- Senior-level representatives from both the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Substance Abuse, or representatives from each division if departments are combined.
- Representatives from both the addiction recovery community and mental health consumer/recovery community. Peer leaders in recovery including representatives from peer run organization(s) and recovery community organization(s) in the jurisdiction
- Representatives from other state or local agencies whose support is needed to expand recovery opportunities, such as: Governor's office, Department of Public Health, Medicaid Office, Indian Health Services, Tribal Council(s), etc.
- Additional team members might include: provider association representatives, family members, youth/young adults, representatives from Federally Qualified Health Centers, or others as appropriate to meet team goals.

For Tribal Governments and Territories:

- BRSS TACS recognizes that Tribal governments and Territories have different agencies, structures, and support systems and thus, your team composition may need to be different.

Note: Should your State, Territory, or Tribal government be selected to participate in the Policy Academy, team members will be asked to provide a signed commitment to participate in all Policy Academy activities. Team members should mark their calendars now for key dates.

Submitting Your Capabilities Statement

The Center for Social Innovation must receive submissions by February 18, 2015. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions or those that do not adhere to the instructions will not be accepted. Attach all documents to a single email and, if possible, submit all components as a single electronic file. Email submissions to policy.academy@center4si.com.

Planning to Participate?

Although it is not required, we would appreciate receiving an email indicating your intent to send a Capabilities Statement. Receiving your intent will assist C4 in planning the review process. It does not obligate you to submit a Capabilities Statement. Let us know by January 26, 2015 at policy.academy@center4si.com.

How to Join the Informational Webinar

An Informational Webinar will be held on January 27, 2015 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. EST. To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brss-tacs-2015-policy-academy-informational-webinar-tickets-14998013462>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Stouff via email at policy.academy@center4si.com or phone (781) 247-1752.