

Call for Applications

2017 BRSS TACS Policy Academy

“Building a Strong Recovery-Oriented Workforce”

Deadline: April 7, 2017

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announces the **2017 Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) Policy Academy**. We invite all eligible entities (see below) to create a team and apply for participation to receive intensive technical assistance to support the development of recovery-oriented services, supports, and recovery-oriented systems change. We will select **up to 10 teams** to participate in the 2017 Policy Academy, which will offer expert facilitation, technical consultation, and other support to help teams develop and implement outcome-focused Action Plans.

Application due date: April 7, 2017

Eligibility

All states, territories, and federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and tribal organizations (tribal entities) are eligible. BRSS TACS will give applications from entities that **have not previously participated** in a BRSS TACS Policy Academy preference for participation. Past participants in the BRSS TACS Policy Academy are eligible to apply.

The jurisdiction’s substance use, mental health, or behavioral health authority (or the broader agency to which that authority belongs) must submit the application. For jurisdictions with separate mental health and substance use authorities, a single entity may submit the application, however we encourage collaboration between the two entities and require team representation by both entities (see Section C of the application for more details on team composition). The entity submitting the application will have responsibility for and oversight of Policy Academy participation and will ensure implementation of the Action Plan.

The BRSS TACS Policy Academy

To date, 30 states, territories, and tribal entities have participated in the BRSS TACS Policy Academy, making significant inroads in advancing recovery-oriented services and systems.

The 2017 BRSS TACS Policy Academy theme is “Building a Strong Recovery-Oriented Workforce.” The Policy Academy will support eligible entities to plan, undertake, and sustain initiatives to build and strengthen a recovery-oriented behavioral health workforce. Participating jurisdictions will convene teams consisting of the diverse stakeholders and change agents from

across disciplines and across your state, territory, or tribal entity—including meaningful representation by peers and people in recovery. **All team members must attend all events.**

Team members will have an opportunity to participate in team planning, knowledge building, and plenary sessions. Team planning sessions will focus on team building; developing a shared recovery vision; analyzing existing strengths, resources, and challenges; and drafting an Action Plan. Knowledge Building Sessions will feature national experts who will share resources and promising practices on recovery-oriented workforce development topics. Plenary sessions will offer opportunities for cross-team sharing and learning. All speakers and experts will be available for on-demand consultations with teams. By the close of the Policy Academy, each team will have drafted an Action Plan. After the Policy Academy, teams will finalize their Action Plans and receive virtual follow-up technical assistance for up to 6 months to support implementation of their Action Plans.

The Policy Academy will take place from **May to September 2017** and includes multiple virtual and on-site activities, including the following:

Kickoff Plenary Meeting (online) (June 7, 2017): All team members will participate and team leaders will introduce their teams and goals for the Policy Academy during this virtual plenary session.

On-site Team Planning Meeting 1 (June 27–28, 2017): A facilitator and BRSS TACS faculty member will travel to the team’s chosen venue for a 2-day planning visit to coach and guide the team in evaluating strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; developing a shared vision; and establishing priorities for the Action Plan.

Online Knowledge Building Sessions (July 10–August 4, 2017): A series of interactive webinars for Policy Academy teams with subject matter experts will provide concrete strategies teams can use to develop and support a recovery-oriented behavioral health care workforce in their jurisdictions.

On-site Team Planning Meeting 2 (August 8–9, 2017): Each team will reconvene in their jurisdiction to create an Action Plan to guide implementation for their chosen project with the assistance of a faculty member and a facilitator over the course of a 2-day meeting.

Closing Plenary (online) (September 6, 2017): All the teams will reconvene for a virtual meeting to present their Action Plans to each other, the BRSS TACS team, and SAMHSA leadership.

Follow-up Technical Assistance (virtual) (up to 6 months): All teams will receive tailored follow-up technical assistance to support implementation of their Action Plan.

Timeline

Date	Activity
February 28, 2017	Application announced
March 16, 2017	Informational webinar 2:30–3:30 p.m. ET
March 20, 2017	Written Intent to Submit due (Optional)
April 7, 2017	Applications due. BRSS TACS must receive applications by 8:00 p.m. ET (5:00 p.m. PT)
May 3, 2017	Applicants notified
Week of May 15, 2017	Orientation meetings with team leads and coordinators (Scheduled individually)
June 7, 2017	Policy Academy Kickoff Plenary (Virtual) 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET
June 27–28, 2017	On-site team planning meeting within state, territory, or tribal entity
July 10–August 4, 2017	Knowledge Building Sessions (Virtual)
August 8–9, 2017	On-site team planning meeting within state, territory, or tribal entity
August 23, 2017	Action Plans due
September 6, 2017	Closing Plenary (Virtual) 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET
September 2017–March 2018	Follow-up technical assistance (delivered virtually)

About BRSS TACS

SAMHSA established BRSS TACS in 2011 to promote the development of recovery support services infrastructure and the widespread adoption of recovery-oriented frameworks at both the systems and services levels across the United States. BRSS TACS leverages previous related work by SAMHSA and others in the development of peer recovery support services and of recovery-oriented systems and services. SAMHSA has contracted with the Center for Social Innovation (C4) and partners to support the implementation of BRSS TACS. To learn more about BRSS TACS, visit the website at www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs.

2017 Focus: Building a Strong Recovery-Oriented Workforce

To improve care for people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders, it is critical to develop a workforce that is knowledgeable and capable of providing evidence-based and recovery-oriented services at all levels of behavioral health service systems. This involves a range of activities to strengthen the behavioral health workforce and ensure that all workers have strong foundations in providing person-centered, recovery-oriented, and strengths-based services and supports.

Teams may focus on a wide range of objectives in support of the goal of a building strong recovery-oriented workforce. The BRSS TACS Policy Academy will provide participating teams an opportunity to identify goals, objectives, and implementation priorities that they can address using existing resources. Teams should craft Action Plans developed at a state, territorial, or tribal entity level broadly and flexibly so that they can customize the plans in response to the resource, needs, constraints, and customs of the community or local area of implementation.

Team Action Plans **must address the needs of people with or in recovery from behavioral health conditions** and teams must strive to address the needs of **both** people with or in recovery from mental health conditions **and** people with or in recovery from substance use disorders.

Examples of activities that participants can undertake include the following:

- Launch a statewide recovery-oriented workforce development effort, creating a steering committee to guide activities to improve the recruitment and retention of mental health and substance use disorder professionals with expertise in recovery and recovery-oriented service delivery.
- Establish a combined and integrated mental health and substance use disorder peer training and certification program to create a trained, credentialed peer workforce in the state.
- Create a parent peer support training and certification program.
- Expand an existing peer support worker training and certification program to include specialized areas such as older adults.
- Create initiatives to educate behavioral health provider agencies about the value and benefits of providing peer support services and how to create and sustain peer support roles within their organization.
- Develop and implement statewide training initiatives to train the behavioral health workforce in recovery-oriented, evidence-based practices.
- Create pilot projects to expand peer support services in new settings, such as primary care clinics, criminal justice settings, educational setting, and others.
- Develop policies and formal agreements to facilitate collaboration or service integration with criminal justice, health care (other than behavioral health), child welfare, rehabilitation services, housing, or other systems and sectors.
- Establish a funding acquisition steering committee charged with identifying diverse, sustainable funding resources for peer recovery support services, such as Medicaid or managed care organizations.
- Develop approaches to tracking and measuring process and outcome data that is built into a peer certification program that evaluates the recipient's experience of receiving peer services as well as the peer recovery support worker's experience delivering services.
- Create a committee of people in recovery, providers, and researchers to identify measurable "real life" outcomes that demonstrate recovery.

2017 BRSS TACS Policy Academy

Application and Instructions

Application Instructions

Applications must be no longer than six single-spaced pages in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch document margins. The cover page and team composition and bios **do not** count against the page limit. Please title each section.

Evaluation

Based on the possible points allocated to each section, the review committee will be evaluating teams based on demonstrated need and ability to benefit from the Policy Academy. BRSS TACS will give applications from entities that **have not previously participated** in a BRSS TACS Policy Academy preference for participation.

To assess demonstrated need and ability to benefit from the Policy Academy, reviewers will look for the following:

- *Does your jurisdiction show demonstrated need?*
- *Is your team motivated to implement the vision and Action Plan you develop through the Policy Academy?*
- *Have you demonstrated an understanding of the importance of involving peers as full partners in your change process?*
- *Have you thoughtfully put together an integrated and diverse team that is motivated and serious about working toward change?*

Submitting the Application

You must submit your application by e-mail to BRSS TACS no later than 8:00 p.m. ET (5:00 p.m. PT) on April 7, 2017. We will not review submissions received after 8:00 p.m. ET on April 7, 2017. We also will not review incomplete submissions or submissions that do not adhere to the instructions.

Please attach all documents to a single email and, if possible, submit all components as a single electronic file (e.g., PDF or Word document).

Email submissions to policy.academy@center4si.com.

Informational Webinar

An informational webinar will be held on **March 16, 2017 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET**. Please visit the registration page to register for the webinar and receive instruction for joining: https://2017_policy_academy_info_webinar.eventbrite.com

If you are unable to attend the webinar, please email policy.academy@center4si.com to request the webinar recording and slides.

Optional Intent to Apply

Although the application process does not require it, we would appreciate receiving an email by March 20, 2017 indicating your intent to apply. This will assist in planning for the review process. It does not obligate you to apply.

Please send the optional Notice of Intent email by March 20, 2017, to policy.academy@center4si.com.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the Policy Academy planning team via email at policy.academy@center4si.com.

Application Components

Applications must consist of the following components:

- Cover Sheet (no page limit)
- Short Answer Responses (six single-spaced pages maximum)
- Proposed Team Composition and Bios (no page limit)

A. Cover Sheet (no page limit, 0 points)

1. Full name of entity
2. Name and full contact information for the point of contact for the application
3. Name and full contact information for team lead (see Section C for a description of responsibilities)
4. Anticipated area of focus
5. List of all SAMHSA grants currently held by the applying entity

B. Short Answer Responses (six single-spaced pages maximum, 80 points)

6. What does your team hope to achieve through Policy Academy participation? **(20 points)**

7. What strengths and assets does your team possess that will support and sustain the change process initiated through Policy Academy participation? **(10 points)**

8. Please explain your jurisdiction's demonstrated needs or lack of resources in the area you have chosen and how Policy Academy participation will help begin to address these challenges. **(20 points)**

9. What are the barriers or obstacles to implementing recovery-oriented supports and services in your jurisdiction? **(10 points)**

10. Please describe what motivates your team's desire to make changes to your behavioral health service system. **(20 points)**

11. How will people in recovery be key members of your team? Please describe how they will participate fully in your team. Please list the name of each peer leader and peer-run/recovery community organization and describe how each will be involved. **(10 points)**

C. Proposed Team Composition and Bios (no page limit, 10 points)

Instructions: Policy Academy teams should include 10 members total (including peer members listed above). Effective teams will have members with policy-making influence from the different agencies, departments, and groups required to meet the team's goals. It is critical to include participation of peers from both mental health and substance use services. As you put together your team, consider the leadership and team members necessary to create an effective Action Plan to build strong and sustainable recovery-oriented systems and services.

Teams should include the following members. **Please add a line identifying team members, based on the following categories, along with their bio in the submission.**

- Senior-level representatives from **both** state, territorial, or tribal entity mental health and substance use authorities (these may be independent government agencies; separate divisions or components of a larger agency; part of an integrated behavioral health agency; or, in the case of territory or tribal entity, part of a different structure).
- Peer representatives from **both** the substance use recovery community and mental health consumer/recovery community. This may include peer leaders representing peer-run organizations and recovery community organizations in the jurisdiction. *If there are no such organizations or if there is only one representing one of the two peer communities or only ones that represent both, please provide an explanation.*
- Representatives from other state or local agencies whose support you need to expand recovery opportunities, such as the governor’s office; state, territorial, local, or tribal entity public health, Medicaid, child welfare, housing, social services, court, criminal justice, or law enforcement agencies; the Indian Health Service; Tribal Councils, 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.

Upon acceptance to the Policy Academy, all team members must submit a signed commitment to participate in all Policy Academy activities. When preparing your application, please be sure you have obtained consent from all proposed team members prior to including them in the application.

Please include the following information for all your team members. The length of this section does not count against the page limit.

For each team member, please include the following:

- Name, Job Title
- Organization
- A one-paragraph bio

In addition, please designate a **team lead** and **team coordinator** for your team. Their roles are critical for ensuring the success of your team.

- **Team leads** provide leadership for the team before, during, and after the Policy Academy meeting. Their role is to motivate the team to succeed and to ensure there is high-level support and buy-in for the team’s work. They support and model a recovery-oriented, culturally competent, and positive team experience and demonstrate appreciation and recognition of all team members.
- **Team coordinators** provide support for overall team activities, including managing communication with all team members by sending documents, notes, and other notices to team members. They will coordinate with BRSS TACS staff to ensure smooth logistics coordination for all team members.

Note: All team members should mark their calendars now for key dates.