



## Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

### Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

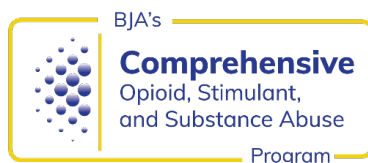
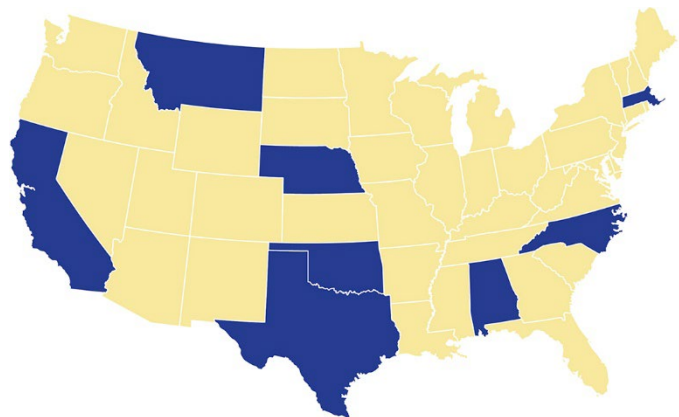
## Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative

[BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program \(COSSAP\)](#) Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative (PRSSMI) supports program-to-program learning among organizations that are implementing peer recovery support services (PRSS) for justice-involved populations. This opportunity provides an exchange of best practices, promising approaches, and evidence-supported services to enhance the capacity of organizations to develop and/or improve their PRSS programs.

Each year, mentor sites from across the country are vetted and selected through an application and interview process to serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a peer support program or for early-stage programs interested in enhancing their work. Selected mentor sites:

- Advocate the value of peer support services within the larger context of behavioral health, recovery-oriented systems of care, criminal justice, and/or child welfare.
- Leverage the uniqueness of the peer status/expertise in program design.
- Have clearly defined roles for peer and other staff members.
- Use evidence-supported practices and policies.
- Engage in systematic recruitment, screening, and hiring of peer providers.
- Provide (or require) training in core competencies (basic) and specialized skills (advanced) for peer providers.
- Promote continuing education and development of peer providers.
- Train non-peer staff members in the value and purpose of peer supports.
- Provide appropriate supervision of peer providers.
- Focus on outcomes; use data to assess program efficacy.
- Demonstrate that the program's interventions lead to positive outcomes.
- Demonstrate strong collaboration among the courts, child welfare, substance use treatment agencies, and other community partners.

*States shown in blue are the location of this year's mentor sites. Read more about them on page two.*



## THIS YEAR'S SELECTED MENTOR SITES INCLUDE:

**Winthrop Police Department, C.L.E.A.R. (Community and Law Enforcement Assisted Recovery) Program (Winthrop, Massachusetts)** is a law enforcement and public health department multidisciplinary partnership that has developed into a nationally recognized program that assists individuals in keeping hope alive through acknowledging recovery as an achievable goal for anyone through recovery-oriented community policing. <https://winthropclear.com/>

**Houston Emergency Opioid Engagement System (HEROES) at the University of Texas (Houston, Texas)** is a recovery community organization that provides comprehensive clinical and behavioral health treatment services and assertive outreach, to include PRSS, at no cost to individuals seeking long-term recovery from opioid use disorder, to parents who are involved in the child welfare system, and within sober high schools in Adolescent Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care. <https://sbmi.uth.edu/heroes/>

**Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Transformation Association (OCARTA) (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)** is an established recovery community organization (RCO) that has provided PRSS for over 20 years. OCARTA is the only Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services (CAPRSS) accredited RCO in Oklahoma and was the seventh in the nation to become CAPRSS accredited. OCARTA's Sister 2 Sister program provides peer mentoring and recovery support services for women and women with children who are seeking or are in recovery, and their Wellness Hub program provides peer support services for anyone else. <https://www.ocartaoklahoma.org/>

**Rimrock Foundation (Billings, Montana)** currently has the largest PRSS team in the state. Their programs are Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited, and they have developed one of the only state-approved peer support specialist (PSS) training curriculums in Montana. Rimrock's PSSs work directly with the Billings Police Department, provide services for six local treatment courts, and work with families at risk of losing their children due to substance use. They also serve local hospitals and the Yellowstone County Detention Facility to offer reentry support, their Homeless Outreach Team, and the Community Crisis Center. <https://www.rimrock.org/>

**University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB) (Birmingham, Alabama)** Department of Psychiatry, Substance Abuse Division is partnering with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to expand peer recovery services to pretrial supervision participants and provide evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), to individuals at high risk for overdose. The program seeks to address persistent poverty, serve a region that has been disproportionately impacted by substance use, reduce recidivism rates, and increase treatment admission rates. <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/psychiatry/patient-care/substance-abuse>

**Wellbeing Initiative, Inc. (Lincoln, Nebraska)** is a peer-led nonprofit organization that partners with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health in the implementation of the Overdose Prevention and Intervention (OPI) Program, which provides peer recovery services in hospitals, treatment courts, jails, and treatment centers. Wellbeing Initiative, Inc. also provides technical assistance to behavioral health and integrated health centers, with a focus on transition-age youth experiencing homelessness and providing peer recovery services for tribal populations. [Wellbeing Initiatives, Inc. - NE Coalition for Peer Delivered Services \(necoalitionforpeers.org\)](https://www.wellbeinginitiative.org/)

**Arming Minorities Against Addiction & Disease (AMAAD) Institute (Los Angeles, California)** was designed to engage, motivate, and strengthen communities of color in South Los Angeles through peer-driven recovery and essential services support. AMAAD provides support services, community support, and resources around specialized, strength-based management and leadership development, with a focus among LGBTQIA+ people of color. <https://www.amaad.org>

**Hope Coalition (Hendersonville, North Carolina)** supports the development of comprehensive, locally driven responses to opioids, stimulants, and other substances, in partnership with law enforcement, through the expansion of supervision, prevention, and PRSS to improve access to and quality of supports countywide for the purposes of providing diversion and reentry support. <https://elementsofhope.org/>

