

Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS), a project of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Request for Applications

2012 Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale (BRSS) Policy Academy Awards

Application Deadlines:
Optional Letter of Intent: February 5, 2012 5:00 pm EST
Complete Application: February 21, 2012 5:00 pm EST

Schedule

January 17, 2012	RFP Announced
February 5, 2012	Written intent to apply (not required)
February 6, 2012	Application period opens
February 21, 2012	Applications must be received by 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time
March 15, 2012	Awardees notified
April 25-27, 2012	Awardee Teams attend BRSS Policy Academy

Summary

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) *Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy* (BRSS TACS) is accepting applications for **Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale (BRSS) Policy Academy Awards**. BRSS TACS is operated by contract with The Center for Social Innovation.

The purpose of the BRSS Policy Academy Awards is to assist State, Territory, and Tribal Government substance use disorder and mental health agencies in designing and implementing strategic policies, practices, financing mechanisms, and infrastructure improvements to promote the implementation of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems.

This request for applications (RFA) invites States, Territories, and Tribal Governments to develop an application and apply for participation in the upcoming BRSS Policy Academy and to receive a subcontract award from The Center for Social Innovation, in the amount of up to \$50,000. The subcontract award will be to implement concrete actions identified in the Team's BRSS Action plan, which will be developed at the Policy Academy. Eight (8) BRSS State Policy Academy Awards will be awarded in 2012.

The BRSS State Policy Academy Awards will provide selected States, Territories, and Tribal Governments with:

- Support, including travel and lodging, to participate in a three-day Policy Academy for a team comprised of twelve (12) members on April 25-27, 2012. The Policy Academy will provide plenary sessions, informational briefings, facilitated strategic planning sessions, and onsite access to subject matter experts to support teams in their efforts to develop a BRSS Action Plan.
- A \$50,000, six-month subcontract award to support the implementation of concrete action steps that will establish, enhance, and sustain recovery supports in their State, Territory, or Tribal jurisdiction.
- Ongoing technical assistance, in the form of consultation, training webinars, and an online learning community, to support Teams as they implement their BRSS Action Plans throughout the award period.

Information about the Award and how to apply can be found below:

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Background

SAMHSA was established in 1992 and directed by Congress to target effective substance abuse and mental health services to the people most in need and to translate research in these areas more effectively and more rapidly into the general health care system. Over the years SAMHSA has demonstrated that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover from mental and substance use disorders. Behavioral health services improve health status and reduce health care and other costs to society. Continued improvement in the delivery and financing of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services provides a cost effective opportunity to advance and protect the Nation's health.

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness of America's communities. To achieve this mission, SAMHSA has identified 8 Strategic Initiatives to focus the Agency's work on improving lives and capitalizing on emerging opportunities. These include:

- [Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness](#)
- [Trauma and Justice](#)
- [Military Families](#)
- [Recovery Support](#)
- [Health Reform](#)
- [Health Information Technology](#)
- [Data, Outcomes, and Quality](#)
- [Public Awareness and Support](#)

The purpose of the Recovery Support Strategic Initiative is to partner with “people in recovery from mental and substance use disorders and family members to guide the behavioral health system and promote individual-, program-, and systems-level approaches that foster health and resilience; increase permanent housing, employment, education, and other necessary supports; and reduce discriminatory barriers” (SAMHSA, 2011).

With input from the behavioral health field, SAMHSA has recently developed a working definition of recovery, as follows:

Recovery from Mental Disorders and Substance Use Disorders: A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Through the Recovery Support Strategic Initiative, SAMHSA has delineated four major dimensions that support a life in recovery:

Health: overcoming or managing one's disease(s) as well as living in a physically and emotionally healthy way;

Home: a stable and safe place to live;

Purpose: meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society; and

Community: relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

SAMHSA has also identified 10 guiding principles of recovery. A brief description of each follows. A more detailed description can be found at www.samhsa.gov/recovery.

- *Recovery emerges from hope:* The belief that recovery is real provides the essential and motivating message of a better future – that people can and do overcome the internal and external challenges, barriers, and obstacles that confront them.
- *Recovery is person-driven:* Self-determination and self-direction are the foundations for recovery as individuals define their own life goals and design their unique path(s) towards those goals.
- *Recovery occurs via many pathways:* Individuals are unique with distinct needs, strengths, preferences, goals, culture, and backgrounds □ including trauma experiences □ that affect and determine their pathway(s) to recovery. Abstinence is the safest approach for those with substance use disorders.
- *Recovery is holistic:* Recovery encompasses an individual’s whole life, including mind, body, spirit, and community.
- *Recovery is supported by peers and allies:* Mutual support and mutual aid groups, including the sharing of experiential knowledge and skills, as well as social learning, play an invaluable role in recovery.
- *Recovery is supported through relationships and social networks:* An important factor in the recovery process is the presence and involvement of people who believe in the person’s ability to recover; who offer hope, support, and encouragement; and who also suggest strategies and resources for change.
- *Recovery is culturally-based and influenced:* Culture and cultural background in all of its diverse representations – including values, traditions, and beliefs – are keys in determining a person’s journey and unique pathway to recovery.
- *Recovery is supported by addressing trauma:* The experience of trauma (such as physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, war, disaster, and others) is often a precursor to or associated with alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, and related issues
- *Recovery involves individual, family, and community strengths and responsibility:* Individuals, families, and communities have strengths and resources that serve as a foundation for recovery.
- *Recovery is based on respect:* Community, systems, and societal acceptance and appreciation for people affected by mental health and substance use problems – including protecting their rights and eliminating discrimination – are crucial in achieving recovery.

About BRSS TACS

In 2011, SAMHSA funded BRSS TACS to promote the widespread adoption of recovery concepts and practices throughout the U.S. 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 others in the behavioral health field.

Bringing recovery supports and services to scale requires a fundamental shift in perspective by States, Territories, and Tribal Governments to adopt and implement new approaches to policy development, funding, infrastructure, service design and delivery, and workforce development. The overarching goal of the 2012 BRSS Policy Academy Awards is to assist States, Territories, and Tribal Governments in designing and implementing strategic action plans that enable them to make the necessary changes to adopt a recovery orientation and facilitate the implementation of recovery-oriented services and systems.

About the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Policy Academy Awards

What is the Policy Academy?

The 2012 BRSS Policy Academy will bring together State, Territory, and Tribal Government Teams comprised of individuals with policy-making influence in conjunction with nationally recognized experts to assist them in developing a BRSS Action Plan. During the Policy Academy, participants will be introduced to key concepts, policies, financing approaches, practice approaches, service design and delivery models, and workforce development issues related to the adoption and implementation of recovery supports and services. Teams will participate in an interactive process to develop a BRSS Action Plan that identifies specific strategies for building on successful efforts and overcoming barriers to implementing recovery supports and services in their home settings. The purpose of the BRSS Action Plan is to expand recovery supports and services in State, Territory, or Tribal jurisdictions.

Awardee teams will participate in team planning sessions, attend cross-team workshop sessions, and use real-time expert facilitation to discuss and apply learning from the Academy to their specific settings. The action plans resulting from the Policy Academy are expected to be sound, comprehensive, and feasible.

Each team will leave the Policy Academy with state-of-the-art information, as well as clearly established priorities for expanding recovery supports and services in their settings. In addition, each team will receive a subcontract award of up to \$50,000 for a six month period to help implement concrete steps in their BRSS Action Plan in their home setting.

What topics will be addressed?

The BRSS Policy Academy will address current thinking and advances in planning, systems change, and bringing effective practices to scale. Specific areas that will be addressed include strategic policies, practices, financing mechanisms, and infrastructure improvements. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Infusing recovery principles into service design and delivery.
- Integrating peer providers, such as peer specialists and recovery coaches, into the behavioral health workforce.
- Developing peer/consumer/recovery community leaders, consumer/recovery community organizations, and peer-led recovery centers.
- Improving meaningful involvement of consumers/peers/people in recovery in policy and systems planning.
- Promoting health and wellness through the use of recovery supports and services.
- Developing supports for education, employment, and economic self-sufficiency
- Transitioning supports from institutions to community.
- Developing recovery supports and services that address the needs and preferences of specific populations and underserved groups.

Based on the needs identified by selected applicants, experts in a variety of topic areas will be available to consult with the teams.

When and where is the Policy Academy?

The Policy Academy will be held from April 25-27, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency, Reston, VA, near Washington, DC.

Are there any costs associated with attending?

Travel, hotel, per diem, and registration fees for 12 team members will be paid by SAMHSA.

Who should be on the team?

Team composition will vary depending upon the needs, resources, and priorities of the State, Territory, or Tribal Government. Teams should arrive prepared to engage in serious planning and development sessions and reflect the following composition:

- The team must include a senior-level representative from each of the following departments: Mental Health and Addictions/Substance Abuse. It is also strongly recommended that a representative from the State Medicaid Office be included.
- The team must include representative(s) of the mental health consumer and the addiction recovery community (peers). If a peer-run organization(s) exist(s) in the State, Territory, or Tribe, peer representatives must be peers in leadership roles with those organization(s). The team must include representatives of both the addiction recovery community and the mental health consumer/recovery community.

- Other members may include, but are not limited to, representatives from: The Governor’s office; Departments of Housing, Employment, and Public Health; researchers; military/veteran agencies; provider associations; service providers implementing innovative approaches; localities; advisory committees; family members/youth; faith community representatives; and other leaders/community members.
- The team must designate a Team Leader — typically the point of contact from the State Behavioral Health Authority (Single State Authority, Mental Health Commissioner, or combined Behavioral Health Commissioner, as appropriate) or Tribal Official listed on the application form. The function of the Team Leader is to coordinate the application, facilitate Team activities prior to, during, and after the onsite event, prepare required reports related to the subcontract award, and, generally, manage the process and work of the team.
- The team must designate a Coordinator to take notes at the meeting, schedule follow-up calls, and support overall team activities

About the Grant Awards

Funding Mechanism:	Subcontract
Anticipated Total Available Funding:	\$400,000
Anticipated Number of Awards:	8
Anticipated Award Amount:	\$50,000 in total direct costs (indirect costs are not allowed)
Length of Project Period:	Six months (from date subcontract award is signed)

What is the award period?

The award period is for six (6) months beginning when the subcontract agreement with the Center for Social Innovation (C4) is signed. C4 is operating BRSS TACS on behalf of SAMHSA.

How will the award be administered?

Funds will be administered by C4 as contract subawards to the State Behavioral Health Authority (Single State Authority, Mental Health Commissioner, or combined Behavioral Health Official, as appropriate) or to the highest ranking official or designee of a federally recognized Tribe. Only State, Territory, or Tribal Government entities are permitted to apply. Each awardee will enter into a subcontracting agreement directly with C4. The awardee must submit a draft action plan and next steps to C4 within 30 days after the Policy Academy. Once this information is received, C4 will provide \$25,000 to the awardee. The additional \$25,000 will be delivered 60 days after the Policy Academy with the completion of a final Action Plan and demonstration that next steps have been

implemented. Awardees will be required to submit a final report at the end of the award period.

Schedule

Awards Announced:	March 15, 2012
Receive Subcontract from Center for Social Innovation:	April 2, 2012
Participate in Facilitated Team Call:	March 15-April 25, 2012
Attend Policy Academy:	April 25-27, 2012
Deliver Draft BRSS Action Plan, Proposed Next Steps, Proposed Budget, and Signed Subcontract Securing First Payment of \$25,000 Upon Approval of Deliverables:	May 28, 2012
Deliver Final Action Plan and Demonstrate Next Steps Securing Second Payment of \$25,000:	June 27, 2012
Participate in 3 Conference Calls with Other Teams and Access TA:	April 27-September 28, 2012
Length of Project Period:	Six months (from date of signed subcontract)

How may funds be used?

States, Territories and Tribal Teams may use these funds to develop their BRSS Action Plans and to implement specific actions in their plans. This may include developing processes towards the design and implementation of strategic policies, practices, financing mechanisms, and infrastructure improvements that will promote the implementation of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems.

Examples of ways that funds may be used in these areas include, but are not limited to:

- Collaboration and consensus-building meetings, or work groups with specific purpose.
- Communications and planning across groups and systems to include data analysis and use of data to plan recovery-oriented services.
- Resource inventory and improvement of access to recovery supports.
- Development of funding approaches for new, enhanced, or expanded recovery-oriented supports and services.
- Training events and other development activities for the workforce related to recovery-oriented supports and services.
- Scholarships/stipends to support involvement of people in recovery and families in the planning process or relevant conferences and meetings.
- Infrastructure development to support expansion of recovery supports and services.

Each State, Territory, and Tribal Government has unique assets and needs. Each team is expected to develop and facilitate implementation of a meaningful plan for increasing recovery supports in their locality.

Funding may **not** be used for the following:

- Direct mental health or substance use treatment, services, or care.
- Any activity that violates local, State, or Federal laws or the terms of SAMHSA contract with C4 for the operation of the SAMHSA BRSS TACS project.
- Payment for professional services not directly related to the proposed activities that support the BRSS TACS project.
- Costs for the creation of new organizations.
- Fundraising.
- Indirect costs/institutional overhead (indirect costs are those not readily identifiable with a particular cost objective but necessary to the general operation of a nonprofit organization and the conduct of the activities it performs).
- Sub-granting or re-granting (pass-through awards).
- Lobbying activities.
- To supplant funding for programs or activities that are currently funded.

What is expected of awardees?

States, Territories, and Tribal Governments selected to receive a Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale (BRSS) Policy Academy Award will be expected to participate in the following activities during the course of the project cycle:

- Participate in a pre-Policy Academy call with your team and the assigned team facilitator.
- Commit to attend the Policy Academy on April 25-27, 2012 and,
 - Identify the members of the team attending the Policy Academy;
 - Arrange team members' travel in a timely manner;
 - Identify the Team Leader;
 - Identify the Recorder;
 - Obtain travel *pre-approval* for the proposed team as part of the application process;
 - Complete pre- and post-academy activities.
- Manage funds appropriately, follow the stated guidelines above, and comply with the subcontract. This includes submitting a detailed budget 30 days after the Policy Academy (upon the delivery of the Action Plan) and having the budget approved.
- Develop, submit, and initiate implementation of a collaborative BRSS Action Plan of how the State, Territory, or Tribal Government will design and implement strategic policies, practices, financing mechanisms, or infrastructure improvements in order to promote the implementation of recovery supports and services.
- Use the subcontract award to carry out concrete steps in the BRSS Action Plan.

- Prepare and submit a brief report every other month (bi-monthly) after the start date of the subcontract. The report should be no longer than two pages (template will be provided).
 - After the Policy Academy, participate in 3 conference calls with other awardees to exchange information on project implementation, exchange resources to assist in the success of their projects, and discuss ideas for ongoing communication among awardees. Awardees are also encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance, including calls with subject matter experts and participation in an online learning community.
 - Prepare and submit a final report six months after award date summarizing uses of funds and status of ongoing BRSS Action Plan activities.
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Application Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria

Applications must address the following sections in an essay of no more than 20 single-spaced pages. (Team bios and letters of commitment do not count against the page limit.)

1. Statement of Need (10 points) – A brief summary of the current strengths to be enhanced and challenges to be addressed in recovery-oriented supports and services planning and implementation in the State, Territory, or Tribe. Examples of strengths might include: a well-organized recovery community or consumer/family network; training and other development activities to train the workforce on recovery-oriented approaches; inclusion of recovery support services, including peer-delivered services, in the State’s continuum of services; partnerships, collaborations, or other formal arrangements to coordinate services among State/Tribal behavioral health and other service delivery systems; State-level efforts to involve the consumer/peer/recovery community in policy and service planning, and others. Challenges might include issues such as: different values, approaches, and perspectives; attitudinal barriers; lack of communication; insufficient and/or inefficient use of resources; cumbersome, fragmented, or inflexible systems; and lack of infrastructure and financing for peer supports and other recovery-oriented services. This section may also include a discussion of the need for and projected benefits of participation in the cross-planning process and access to briefings on concepts, approaches, programs, and strategies that have been shown to be effective in instituting recovery supports and services in behavioral health systems.

2. Proposed Project (30 points)

- ***Describe Proposed Project/Approach:*** Identify at least one project or activity that the team will carry out using the \$50,000 award. Project concept may shift throughout the Policy Academy process, so general approaches will be considered. Teams may consider a range of activities to support their specific State, Territory, or Tribal needs. Examples include:

- Promoting organizational change toward an integrated system-level recovery orientation.
 - Integrating recovery coaches into mental health and substance use treatment/recovery settings, and defining the workforce and financing needs and strategies to support that effort.
 - Developing a recovery-voice in state systems by promoting the integration of people in recovery at state and local planning and policy events and meetings.
 - Integrating peer providers, such as recovery coaches and peer specialists, into the workforce.
 - Promoting health and wellness through the use of recovery supports and services.
 - Developing supports and services for housing, education, employment, and economic self-sufficiency.
 - Developing and/or adapting supports and services to meet the needs and preferences of specific populations.
- ***Provide Project Goals and Objectives:*** The goals and objectives must address at least one of the following domains of having a satisfying life in the community:
 - Health** – A physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle.
 - Home** – A stable and safe place to live that supports recovery.
 - Purpose** – Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income, and resources to participate in society.
 - Community** – Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

3. Composition of Proposed Team (20 points) (Items required in this section do not count against the 20-page limit) – A minimum of 9 of the 12 committed members of the team must be identified. The teams must reflect the following composition:

- The team must include a senior-level representative from the Mental Health and Addictions Department. It is strongly recommended that a member of the State Medicaid Office also be included on the team.
- The team must include peers in recovery. If a peer-run organization exists in the State or Tribe, peers must be representatives of the peer-run organization. Representatives from both the addictions recovery community and mental health consumer/recovery community must be included.
- Other members may include but are not limited to representatives from: The Governor’s office, Departments of Housing, Employment, and Public Health, researchers, military/veteran agencies, provider’s associations, service providers implementing innovative approaches, localities, advisory committees, family members/youth, and other leaders/community members.
- The team must designate a Team Leader (typically the Point of Contact on the application).

- The team must designate a Coordinator to take notes at the meeting, schedule follow-up calls, and support overall team activities

For each team member, please provide the name, title, organization, representation, and a one-paragraph bio.

4. Meaningful Involvement of Individuals in Recovery (Peers) (10 points) –

Teams must include meaningful involvement of individuals in recovery from mental health and/or substance use disorders.

- List the name of each peer and describe how they will be involved.

5. Commitment to Participate (30 points) – Compelling evidence that the State, Territory, or Tribe will benefit from the Policy Academy, technical assistance, and financial award by dedicating the staff time and resources necessary to participate in the Academy, highlighting key activities that could be leveraged, including State-level collaboration already initiated or planned. Each State, Territory, or Tribe should demonstrate a commitment to participate in all Policy Academy activities, complete reports and deliverables under the terms of the subcontract on time, and complete the action steps created during the Policy Academy. Commitment can be demonstrated through the following (Items required in this section do not count against the 20-page limit):

- Letter of commitment and resume of the designated Team Lead (typically the Point of Contact on the application), demonstrating ability to facilitate team development, planning, and implementation of the BRSS Action Plan.
- Assurance of agreement to enter into a subcontract with the Center for Social Innovation (C4) for the Grant Award.
- A commitment stating that the 9 team members identified in the application will attend the Policy Academy. (The additional 3 team members may be identified after submitting the application.)

Intent to Apply

We would appreciate receiving an email (rstouff@center4si.com) indicating your intent to submit an Application. This will assist in planning the application review process and it does not obligate your State, Territory and/or Tribal Government to submit an application. Submitting a Letter of Intent is not required. Letters of Intent should be submitted by **February 5, 2012**. Letters can also be mailed to:

Rebecca Stouff
Center for Social Innovation
200 Reservoir Street, Suite 202
Needham, MA 02494

How are applications submitted?

Applications may be submitted by e-mail (preferred) or mail (overnight courier or U.S. Postal Service). **Applications may not be accepted by fax.** If submitting an application package by e-mail, attach all application documents including the cover sheet (see Attachment A) to a single e-mail and, if possible, submit all application components as a single electronic file. Applications must use 12 point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.

If submitting an application package by mail, you must provide one original and six copies of the application, cover sheet (see Attachment A), and completed application narrative package, including all of the items listed above, and in the format specified above. Each copy shall be attached with a binder clip (no staples, folders, or binders). Applications must be **received** no later than **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, February 21, 2012.**

Application packages can be mailed to:

Rebecca Stouff
Center for Social Innovation
200 Reservoir Street, Suite 202
Needham, MA 02494

Or emailed to:

rstouff@center4si.com

Please do not send backup materials unless specifically requested (e.g., videotapes). They will not be reviewed and cannot be returned. ***Incomplete applications will not be accepted or reviewed.***

How will applications be reviewed?

The review process will be provided in stages by a team led by the BRSS TACS 2012 Policy Academy Award Manager and in collaboration with SAMHSA. During an initial screening, applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to the instructions in this announcement. Incomplete applications or those that do not adhere to the instructions will be eliminated from further consideration.

The 2012 BRSS TACS Policy Academy Award Manager will assemble a team of experts to evaluate and score the applications based on the evaluation criteria.

The scored applications will be sent to SAMHSA where 8 applications will be selected and approved. The final selection of Award recipients will be based on evaluation score, geographic distribution, diversity, and other factors.

The BRSS TACS 2012 Policy Academy Award Manager will notify successful applicants by **March 15, 2012**.

Contact Information and Questions:

You may send questions via e-mail to Rebecca Stouff at: rstouff@center4si.com or you may call (617) 467-6014 ext. 242. Questions will be answered verbally and/or via e-mail on an individual basis.

If you have questions about the BRSS Policy Academy Awards, please contact:

Rebecca Stouff
Center for Social Innovation
200 Reservoir Street, Suite 202
Needham, MA 02494

Phone: (617) 467-6014 ext. 242
Email: rstouff@center4si.com

Where can I find additional resources?

For additional information regarding recovery efforts under SAMHSA, please visit these sites:

- SAMHSA's Strategic Plan *Leading Change: A Plan for SAMHSA's and Actions 2011–2014* available at: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA11-4629?from=carousel&position=3&date=04072011>

Attachment A:
2012 Policy Academy Award Application
Cover Sheet

Date Submitted: _____

PRIMARY APPLICANT	
FULL NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY	ADDRESS
NAME / TITLE OF DESIGNATED CONTACT	ADDRESS
OFFICE PHONE	E-MAIL
FAX NUMBER	MOBILE PHONE (optional)