

Access to Recovery Project (ATR)

The Access to Recovery program (ATR) is a new, federally funded grant initiative in Pennsylvania that provides uninsured or underinsured adults with alcohol or other drug challenges an array of options and choices to obtain clinical and enhanced recovery support services through a voucher program. Pennsylvania's ATR program has been initiated in Philadelphia County and is expected to be funded for a period of four years. Over the course of the 4 years, the initiative is projected to serve a total of 10,705 people. Hallmarks of the program are individual choice and increased access to enhanced recovery support services through the development of a network of community and faith-based service providers.

Overview - On September 30, 2010, the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) was awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to implement an Access to Recovery (ATR) project within Philadelphia County.

Within the uninsured or underinsured target population of the ATR program, sub-populations are prioritized for inclusion through specific eligibility criteria. These sub-populations include homeless persons, women who are pregnant or have children, veterans, and those attempting to re-enter society from the criminal justice system. ATR funds are primarily being directed toward the provision of recovery support services which will not only assist individuals to engage in recovery, but will also enable them to stay in treatment, help them transition their lifestyles away from addiction, and provide coaching to maintain a life in recovery. The model is a shift away from acute care, to a broader system that promotes recovery, resilience and self-determination.

Project Partners - BDAP has partnered with the Office of Addiction Services (OAS) within the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) to implement this four year project. The OAS/DBHIDS functions as the Philadelphia Single County Authority (SCA) for drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services. The DBHIDS was previously known as the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services (DBHMRS).

BDAP provides administrative oversight of the ATR project while the Philadelphia SCA is responsible for implementing and managing the project at the local level within the Philadelphia service area. Other project partners include KIT Solutions, LLC, the contractor responsible for developing the project's mandatory electronic web-based voucher management system.

The ATR project includes a provider network consisting of clinical treatment and enhanced recovery support services. They include both licensed treatment programs, as well as non-traditional assessment sites. These sites perform strengths-based, person-first assessments as well as administer the initial GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) tool - a federally mandated instrument that captures baseline and successive outcome measures. The assessment sites also initiate a service plan which treatment and recovery support services recommendations. These functions are essential to the success of the grant. Individuals who are part of the ATR project have a variety of services available and a choice of providers offering each service. In addition, Recovery Specialists are responsible for the provision of care coordination, working

with individuals in the ATR program by assisting with recovery planning; promoting self-advocacy by assisting recovering persons to have their voices fully heard; and assisting recovering persons to identify their personal interests, goals, strengths and challenges in relationship to recovery and to “getting the life they want” in the community.

The ATR project provides individuals with vouchers to procure clinical treatment services and recovery support services (RSS) for individuals with substance use conditions at the provider of their choice. The project enables the SCA to expand its current provider network, including additional faith-based and community-based treatment providers aimed at reaching individuals that might not otherwise receive treatment or support services. The project emphasizes individual choice of treatment and recovery supports and is expected to significantly expand Philadelphia’s menu of recovery support activities/services provided through the community and faith based organizations as well as licensed treatment providers.

Target Population - Uninsured and underinsured individuals are the primary target population with particular focus on those involved with the criminal justice system, pregnant and parenting women, homeless persons, and veterans.

Timeframes - The notice of award was issued September 2010 and with the expectation of the project being operational by January 31, 2011. Throughout the four years of the project, approximately 10,705 clients will be served with the proposed \$11,889,263 project budget. This project will help expand consumer choice while increasing service capacity, and improving outcomes.

Additional Details - Additional information including service access for individuals and service provider information may be found on the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services’ Behavioral Health Special Initiative website: <http://www.bhsi-dbhids.org>.