



Exceptional Item: Support greater access to substance use and mental health recovery support services through Recovery Community Organizations

Recommendation:

We urge Texas Health & Human Services to **support greater access to substance use and mental health recovery support services** delivered by Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) for underserved populations by **allocating an additional \$10 Million in appropriations to Peer Support and Recovery.**

Needs addressed:

While the State has supported the integration of peer specialists into clinical settings, it has not effectively supported the growth of recovery community organizations with appropriate funding structures. This, in turn, has hindered these organizations from expanding to meet the needs of the communities they serve. RCO's need dedicated funding for a minimum of 5 years to support scalability and sustainability, along with technical assistance from a statewide recovery organization.

Expected Impacts or benefits:

State supported expansion of RCO services will facilitate cost-effective outcomes by increasing greater access to non medical determinants of health and recovery support services with little to no waitlist while providing a higher degree of fidelity and cultural responsiveness.

Sincerely,

Sydney Carter, Network of Behavioral Health Providers
Lisa Albert, Network of Behavioral Health Providers
Elizabeth Henry, RecoveryPeople
Darring Acker, Communities for Recovery
Kim Allen, Big Blue Eye Consulting
Ben Bass, Recovery Alliance of El Paso
Patrick Brown, Thriving United
Chris Bryan, Clarity Child Guidance Network
Travis Evans, Southern Regional Director, Young Invincibles
Shannon Hoffman, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health
Julie McElrath, Clean Cause Foundation
Jason Pullin, Texas Recovery Oriented Housing Network
Eden Robles, Recovery Coalition of Texas
Soleece Watson, A New Entry
Dorothy West, Center for Recovery Wellness and Resources