



April 2026 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

New Release!

Connections to Treatment and Recovery Services for Substance Use Disorders

This new issue brief examines the intersection of homelessness and substance use disorders (SUDs) and provides practical, relationship-centered strategies to build trust and navigate systems of care. The resource covers topics including:

- Barriers to recovery
- Strategies to support treatment and recovery
- Practical tools for staff



Connections to Treatment and Recovery Services for Substance Use Disorders


April 2026

INTRODUCTION: This brief examines the intersection of homelessness and substance use disorders (SUDs), highlighting the heightened risk of overdose and death among people experiencing homelessness and the systemic barriers they face in accessing effective treatment and recovery services. It outlines practical, relationship-centered strategies to build trust, navigate systems of care, and connect individuals to a full continuum of evidence-based treatment and recovery supports. Emphasizing warm handoffs, community partnerships, and respect for autonomy, the guide offers concrete tools to help providers facilitate timely, person-centered pathways to treatment and long-term recovery.

Introduction

Substance use disorders (SUDs), often referred to as "addictions," are medical conditions characterized by a person's continued use of substances in ways that harm them and that lead to significant challenges in several areas of their life, including impaired control, poor social connections, and risky behaviors. The issues of homelessness and SUDs are intricately related, and many believe that SUDs can be both a cause and a consequence of homelessness. Many people experiencing homelessness report that substance use is a major cause of their homelessness.¹ For people experiencing homelessness under the age of 45, drug overdose appears to be the leading cause of death.² One study found that almost 60% of deaths among unhoused people were due to substance use.³

The overlap of homelessness and the overdose crisis highlights the critical intersection of these issues and the importance of connecting people with the treatment and recovery support services they need. Connections to care require homeless service providers to identify barriers, build trusting relationships to support conversations with people who have SUDs, form community partnerships to facilitate connections to care, and provide individuals with warm handoffs and navigation support.

 SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Homeless Housing & Recovery Center
Connections to Treatment and Recovery Services | 1

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)

Recognizing Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month—a time to raise awareness and understanding of alcohol use and misuse. It offers communities a chance to gain more understanding of how individuals struggle with



alcohol use and offers resources and support. Find helpful resources on alcohol use and misuse prevention, and treatment and recovery support services that you and your community can use to support those who may be struggling: [Find Helpful Resources](#).

HHRC Job Board

Is your agency currently hiring for a position serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness? Are you looking for your next role? We invite agencies to submit open job listings for advertising on the HHRC website!

Positions must relate to supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have SMI, SUD, or COD. HHRC staff will review incoming listings for appropriateness and contact agencies with any questions.

HHRC does not charge fees to advertise or view job listings.

[View and Submit Open Roles](#)

Partner Resources

Advisory: Peer Recovery Supports for Behavioral Health in Rural Communities

SAMHSA

Rural America is facing a behavioral health crisis—marked by high rates of suicide, substance use, and limited access to care. Workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and stigma make it harder for individuals to get the help they need. This [SAMHSA advisory](#) highlights peer recovery support as a powerful, community-driven solution.

Recovery Housing: Funding Sources and Financial Sustainability – Insights from NARR-Certified Recovery Residences

SAMHSA

Recovery housing has been shown to improve various outcomes such as decreased substance use, reduced likelihood of relapse, lower incarceration rates, higher income, increased employment, and better family relationships. Despite the successes associated with recovery housing, financing is a significant barrier to sustainability. This

[report](#) discusses an array of recovery approaches and identifies strategies and funding mechanisms to sustain recovery housing as an essential component to support long-term recovery.

Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program

SchoolHouse Connection

The [Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program](#) provides financial assistance, intensive case management, peer support, and leadership opportunities for students who have experienced homelessness to help them get to and through college, build their career, and create a strong foundation for their future. The program begins working with students one year before they start college to provide intensive college readiness support.

Preparing for Disasters on a Year-Round Basis

National Alliance to End Homelessness

With an increase in extreme weather patterns and natural disasters, Continuums of Care must consider emergency preparedness and response on a year-round basis, not just when disasters occur. The Alliance has collected [several resources](#) to help CoCs with disaster preparedness and response.

Advancing Person-Centered Care: Peer Support in Schizophrenia Care in Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, in collaboration with Bristol Myers Squibb, has developed a new [white paper](#) on evidence-based and innovative practices for developing and providing peer support services for people living with schizophrenia. This resource examines how peer support programs, led by trained individuals with their own lived experience of serious mental illness, can help address critical gaps in schizophrenia care across the United States.

Partner Events

- [Webinar](#): Old Drugs, New Threats®: An Overview of Emerging Drug Trends
May 5, 11:00am ET. SAMHSA Prevention Technology Transfer Center
 - [Webinar](#): Community Conversation: Innovative Approaches for Mental Health Care and Homelessness
May 13, 12:00pm ET. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
 - [Webinar](#): Addressing Cognitive Impairment and Dementia Among Homeless and Housing-Insecure Seniors
May 14, 3:00pm ET. National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center
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Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org



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