



2023 POLICY STATEMENT

Friends of Recovery – New York (FOR-NY) is a statewide Recovery Community Organization (RCO) dedicated to advocating with and on behalf of millions of individuals and families impacted by addiction and recovery across New York State. Together, we work to educate decision makers and the general public on the power and promise of recovery.

The FOR-NY October 2022 Survey was distributed to the NYS Recovery Community and results have reconfirmed **the following four identified priorities from our 2020, 2021 and 2022 Policy Statements: #1 Housing; #2 Personalized Treatment and Treatment on Demand; #3 Recovery Oriented Systems of Care; and #4 Transportation.** The survey results have also reaffirmed the value of our policy position on racial justice. As informed by the survey results and the NYS Recovery Community, below is our 2023 Policy Statement. As a community, we call on the Governor and the NYS Legislature to take immediate action to address these priorities and the addiction crisis in NYS:

RACIAL JUSTICE , HARM REDUCTION & ALL PATHWAYS OF RECOVERY

FOR-NY is an anti-racist organization that embraces the lifesaving principles of harm reduction and all pathways of recovery. We are dedicated to eliminating racial injustice and the stigma associated with addiction and active use. We are committed to promoting an ongoing process of healing and reconciliation in order to dismantle racism and inequity. Our organization's values are rooted in the belief that all members of our community are valued at all levels.

PRIORITY #1: HOUSING



- Housing provided along a continuum.
- Funding directed at housing for individuals in recovery from Substance Use Disorders.
- Affording individuals in early recovery a safe, supportive living environment.
- Allocating resources which create a variety of recovery residences statewide which will include and embrace those receiving *Medication Supported Recovery* to support their recovery in-order to meet a rapidly increasing demand.

PRIORITY #2: PERSONALIZED TREATMENT & RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ON DEMAND



- Treatment and Recovery support services on demand and connection to local recovery communities after overdose.
- Anyone in need must have 24/7 access to detox, treatment and recovery support services.
- A permanent and comprehensive addiction wraparound services program.
- Assessment, treatment referrals and warm handoffs to recovery support services must be made immediately available to help save lives.
- *Medication Supported Recovery* and Harm Reduction as chosen pathways to recovery.
- Improved outcomes for those in treatment and recovery with a history of criminal justice involvement and improved treatment of those currently involved in the criminal justice system.
- Trauma informed recovery services and evidence-based treatment.

PRIORITY #3: RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEMS OF CARE



- Create a permanent funding model to ensure at least one Recovery Community Organization (RCO), Recovery Community Outreach Center (RCOC) and Youth Clubhouse in each county and ensure that at least two Certified Recovery Peer Advocates and two Certified Family Support Navigators exist in every county in NYS. \$43 Million is needed to fund this priority.
- Peer Services available across the continuum and integration into unconventional settings – Emergency Departments, Housing, Harm Reduction, etc.

PRIORITY #4: TRANSPORTATION



- Development of statewide non-clinical, recovery supportive transportation services program.
- Reimbursement for peer-led transportation services regardless of treatment affiliation.

PRIORITY #5: EQUITABLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



- RFAs and RFPs should prioritize community-based organizations that have no mechanism for reimbursement, including RCOs, RCOCs and Harm Reduction Organizations.

14TH ANNUAL STAND UP FOR RECOVERY DAY

2023 LEGISLATIVE ASKS

RACIAL JUSTICE: The Recovery Community is committed to ensuring that “Nothing About Us Without Us” is inclusive of Black, Indigenous and People of Color and that our policy initiatives reflect this. FOR-NY is pleased that OASAS created the Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in June 2022. It is imperative that all members of the recovery community are seen and heard.

HOUSING: Funding shall be directed at housing for individuals in recovery from Substance Use Disorders (SUD) statewide to meet the rapidly increasing demand of the recovery community. The voices of recovery housing operators and individuals with lived experience must have integral role in the development and expansion of housing to ensure that care for SUD is met along the continuum. It is imperative that recovery supportive housing be inclusive and supportive of those receiving Medication Supported Recovery (MAT/MAR).

PERSONALIZED TREATMENT & RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ON DEMAND: We support treatment on demand including harm reduction with recovery wrap around services and equitable access. We support the following bills:

- Support **A.2972** to establish an intensive addiction recovery and mental health integrated services pilot program to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to individuals with significant addiction and mental health issues who have had multiple and frequent treatment episodes; and support **A.3378** to establish an intensive addiction and medical services integrated services pilot program to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and medical services integrated services to individuals who have significant addiction and medical issues.
- Support **S.1976/A.1263** the “Treatment Not Jails Act” to diverge individuals living with SUD out of the criminal justice system and connected to improved treatment and recovery supportive services.
- Support **S.3524** which enacts the **"Ensuring Access to Behavioral Health Act;"** includes mental health services, substance use disorder treatment services and recovery support services to network adequacy requirements for insurance coverage.

RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEMS OF CARE: We advocated for the passage of the Opioid Stewardship Act in 2017. Join us in supporting the use of these funds be allocated to the creation of new programs and expanding resources to increase access to recovery-oriented systems of care. We ask for the creation of a permanent funding model to ensure that there is at least one Recovery Community Organization (RCO), Recovery Community Outreach Center (RCOC) and Youth Clubhouse in each county and that there is at least two Certified Recovery Peer Advocates and two Certified Family Support Navigators in every county in NYS. \$43 Million is needed to fund this identified recovery community priority.

TRANSPORTATION: Support **S.7910** to provide reimbursement for peer transportation services. Transportation has been identified as a barrier to care for individuals with SUD. The Recovery Community asks for the development of a statewide non-clinical recovery supportive transportation service.



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