

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP)

Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative (PRSSMI) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Mentor FAQs

1. Who can register to participate?

PRSSMI provides an opportunity for new or early-stage peer programs (mentees) to be matched with and learn from experienced programs (mentors) in a structured way. A mentee site receives consultation and support from the staff of an experienced mentor program, culminating in a visit to the mentor site. (PRSSMI will cover travel for up to three persons per mentee team.)

2. Are there any requirements to be a mentor?

Mentor sites need to:

- ◀ Have established programs utilizing peer supports.
- ◀ Leverage the uniqueness of peer status in program design.
- ◀ Have clearly defined roles for peers and other staff.
- ◀ Use sound evidence-supported practices and policies.
- ◀ Engage in systematic recruitment, screening, and hiring of peer workers.
- ◀ Provide (or require) training in core competencies (basic) and specialized skills (advanced) for peer staff.
- ◀ Promote continuing education and development for peer staff.
- ◀ Train non-peer staff members on the value and purpose of peer supports.
- ◀ Provide appropriate supervision of peer workers.
- ◀ Focus on outcomes; use data to assess program efficacy.
- ◀ Demonstrate that programmatic interventions lead to positive outcomes.
- ◀ Demonstrate strong collaborations among the courts, child welfare, substance use treatment agencies, and others.

3. How will mentors and mentees be matched?

Mentors and mentees are matched on a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to, program size, service area, and program description.

4. What are the benefits of participating?

As a mentor, you will have the opportunity to strengthen another program, the satisfaction in advancing colleagues' efforts, and the chance to showcase your program. In addition, you will also receive a \$1,500 stipend per mentee site for your commitment.

5. What information do mentors need to apply to the program?

To complete this application, you will need to have:

- ◀ An understanding of why you are interested in participating in the program, goals for participation, and what you can bring to the table.
- ◀ Key descriptors of your program, such as outcome metrics and key collaborators.
- ◀ A one- to two-page program description.
- ◀ A program brochure, promotional materials, or media clippings.
- ◀ A program staffing chart.
- ◀ A program budget from the previous two years.
- ◀ Reports on your program's or organization's outcomes/results.
- ◀ Any other documents that you would like to submit in support of your application.



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