

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

# 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 abuse 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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