

OVERVIEW

Through funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) is pleased to announce the **Adolescent Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (AROSC) project**. The AROSC project is a multi-year endeavor for juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) that wish to lead the field in applying the principles of recovery capital to improve operations and enhance positive youth development. NADCP will select six JDTC programs to participate in the AROSC project through a competitive application process.

WHAT IS RECOVERY CAPITAL?

The AROSC project stems from research about the importance of assessing, supporting, and building individual recovery capital. While there are several models, recovery capital generally refers to the varied internal and external resources that a person needs in order to build and maintain recovery for the long term. For most youth, the recovery process requires a range of supports across multiple domains to reduce risk. The AROSC project will focus on building recovery capital for youth in four specific areas: human, social, community/cultural, and financial.

Numerous indicators and factors, when built upon, can increase recovery capital. Some of these are depicted below.





ADOLESCENT RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEMS OF CARE PROJECT

WHAT WILL THE SELECTED SITES BE ASKED TO DO?

Over the two-year project, JDTC programs will be asked to re-envision operations through a recovery-oriented lens. Each team will be assigned an NADCP coach to serve as its primary point of contact and who will design and deliver services to include site visits, training, technical assistance, strategic planning, and networking with other AROSC sites to help each court align operations with the recovery capital model.

With guidance from their NADCP coaches, participating courts will:

- Complete a court self-assessment
- Conduct a comprehensive community mapping exercise
- Engage in strategic planning
- Build relationships with community groups and local agencies
- Assess youth pre- and post-program to measure recovery capital
- Implement new or refined staffing/court procedures centered on assessing and enhancing recovery capital elements
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the above efforts

Each court will assemble an **AROSC change team** to shoulder the bulk of this work. This team will be responsible for implementing the changes identified through assessment, training, and technical assistance. This will be a learning environment in which the sites will use data to determine if the changes made result in measurable improvements for youth.

The AROSC sites will be asked to pilot an assessment tool for measuring coping skills, problem solving, motivation, and recovery capital in youth. This tool is specifically designed to complement other screening and assessment tools already in use by the JDTC team. The tool was carefully crafted to capture information beyond that already collected by the team and to document changes (e.g., increases) in the four specified areas of recovery capital.

Each AROSC site will be expected to participate in a process evaluation, which will document all activities related to the implementation of emerging best practices. This process evaluation will include reviewing all developed materials and operational changes, holding focus groups with team members at each site to assess perceptions of change, and examining available data. Upon completion of the project, each team will receive a final report from NADCP that highlights accomplishments to date and recommendations for further improvements.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A jurisdiction is encouraged to apply if it meets the minimum criteria below:

- Has been operational for at least three (3) years
- Accepts participants diagnosed with substance use disorder

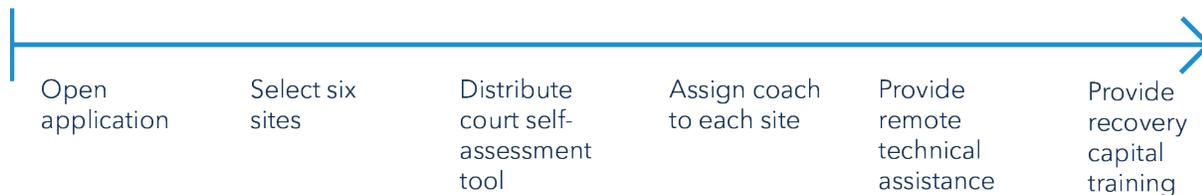


- All core JDTC team members agree to participate (e.g., judge, prosecution, defense, coordinator, school representative, treatment provider, probation)
- Can identify and describe local, youth-oriented recovery resources
- Has support from administration and other decision-makers
- Is willing to engage in change processes and measure outcomes

SELECTION AND INITIAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

NADCP, in collaboration with various partners, will open the application on October 25, 2020, and applications are due November 20, 2020. A panel of treatment court and recovery experts will review applications and recommend six sites for selection based on established criteria. Sites will be notified of selection by December 15, 2020. Once sites are notified, each court will be asked to complete a court self-assessment within 30 days. The self-assessment will allow the coach to fully understand the current operations of the court and what resources and services are available in the community.

Teams will then begin the process of receiving targeted training and technical assistance on the theory and application of adolescent recovery capital by February 2021.



ACTIVITIES AND EVALUATION

Upon completion of the self-assessment and training on the core principles of adolescent recovery capital, teams will engage in an extensive community mapping exercise. Results will be combined with the self-assessment, and the coaches will assist the teams in creating a strategic plan for the project period, including an implementation timeline.

Teams will work to:

- Engage community resources and local service providers
- Seek to identify missing youth-oriented recovery resources and engage community partners to help provide those resources
- Adjust staffing and court procedures to reflect recovery capital principles
- Adjust treatment, case management, and service planning to reflect recovery capital principles
- Use a pre- and post-program recovery capital assessment tool to measure levels of change in youth
- Evaluate outcomes and make program adjustments as needed



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STAFF AND FACULTY

The AROSC sites will work with expert coaches, faculty, and staff to assess and build recovery capital principles and practices within their programs. Sites can expect to receive individualized training and technical assistance throughout the project period from experts in adolescent development, recovery principles, JDTC best practices, mental health, and recovery high schools.

The AROSC project leads and coaches are:

- Terrence Walton, MSW, Chief Operating Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals
- Jacqueline van Wormer, Ph.D., Director, Juvenile Training and Technical Assistance, National Drug Court Institute
- Susan Broderick, JD, Founder and CEO, Building Bridges to Recovery
- Emily Hennessey, MPhil, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, SHARP Research Lab, University of Connecticut
- Martha-Elin Blomquist, Ph.D., Senior Site Manager, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the application process or project expectations, please contact Dr. Jacqueline van Wormer at jvanwormer@nadcp.org.

