

Center of Excellence for Tobacco Free Recovery Cross-State Leadership Academy for Tobacco-Free Recovery Charter

Reducing rates of tobacco use among people with mental health and/or substance use conditions

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) has awarded Cicatelli Associates Inc. (CAI) funding to administer the [National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery \(CoE-TFR\) from September 2023 through August 2028](#). Broadly, this initiative aims to reduce commercial tobacco use among people with mental health and substance use conditions.

The Issue – Addressing Tobacco Use Among People with Behavioral Health Conditions (mental health and/or substance use disorders) is a National Priority: People with behavioral health conditions represent 25% of the U.S. adult population but account for nearly 40 percent of all cigarettes sold. Half of all deaths were tobacco-related for persons who received behavioral health services. Over the last decade, as a result of courageous state leadership, states have identified and made low-cost, no cost” investments that have resulted in dramatic reductions in tobacco use among this population.

The Opportunity – State Leaders Peer to Peer Learning and Action: There is more to do, and we can’t do this work alone. There is a unique opportunity for State leaders to learn from each other, experts in the field and take steps together to build on lessons learned to get next level outcomes. To help you take these steps we are inviting up to four State teams to participate in an 18-month Cross-State Leadership Academy for Tobacco-Free Recovery. The Academy experience will support your team in mobilizing community partners, stakeholders, and people with lived experience to develop and implement a state-wide action plan to continue to reduce the rates of commercial tobacco use among persons with behavioral health conditions.

Cross-State Leadership Academy for Tobacco-Free Recovery Structure

The Cross-State Leadership Academy for Tobacco-Free Recovery includes two components:

Cross-State Leadership Academy: Beginning in March 2024 we will convene up to four state teams over the course of 18 months through a combination of **in-person and virtual convenings**, including providing technical assistance, to work together to support one another in using a stakeholder and community-engaged process to develop, implement and measure the impact of a state-specific action plan for reducing the high prevalence of tobacco use by people with behavioral health conditions. Through this experience we will:

- Foster cross-state peer to peer learning and leadership
- Increase awareness of actions states can take, and lessons learned, to foster policy, systems, and people change that contribute to reductions in tobacco use among people with behavioral health conditions
- Prepare state teams with the knowledge, skills, tools, and resources to plan and convene a State-Specific Leadership Academy to develop action plans to reduce rates of tobacco use among people with behavioral health conditions

- Identify and develop meaningful partnerships with stakeholders (including people with lived experience, their families, and communities) to inform and implement state action plans
- Support activities to implement and resource state action plans
- Establish or strengthen systems to use data and information to monitor progress toward achievement of state action plan goals

State-Specific Leadership Academy: building on skills and knowledge gained during Cross-State Leadership Academy convenings, and with ongoing TA from CoE-TFR staff and subject matter experts (SMEs), each state team will develop and implement a State-Specific Leadership Academy and follow-up activities to:

- Build cohesion among stakeholders to collaborate and work together
- Identify achievable strategies and goals
- Build agreement on baselines and target measure(s) to monitor progress towards achieving goals
- Develop a **State Action Plan** with a clear process for implementation and roles of all stakeholders to reduce the rates of tobacco use among individuals with behavioral health conditions
- Establish and implement structures and systems to facilitate implementation of action plan
- Establish and implement system to collect, report and use data to monitor progress toward achievement of state action plan goals

Requirements for Participation in Cross- State Leadership Academy

Participation is a competitive process and includes submission of a brief application and interview. Before applying, each state should consider the following requirements.

1. Eligibility:

- State Departments, Offices, or Programs of Tobacco Control, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder/Addiction Services, or Health Equity or Minority Health.

2. Complete a Cross-State Leadership Academy Application

- The application should take 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

3. Participate in a Cross-State Leadership Academy Interview

- A 30-minute interview will be scheduled following submission to review and discuss your application.

4. Establish Cross-State Leadership Academy State Team

- States applying must identify and convene a multidisciplinary team, comprised of up to 6 individuals to participate in Academy activities. This team will work together to plan and convene a State-Specific Leadership Academy and support the development of structure and processes to implement and monitor outcomes of the plan.



- Each team will be unique to your state. **We strongly suggest *representative(s)* from:**
 - State Tobacco Control Programs
 - State Offices of Mental Health and/or Substance Use Programs
 - State Offices that oversee state health insurance plans
 - State Offices of Health Equity or Minority Health
 - Surveillance, Research or Evaluation

5. Commitment to participate in all Cross-State Leadership Academy Activities (see Table 1. Cross-State Leadership Academy Timeline and Key Activities)

- Two in-person Cross-State Leadership Academy Sessions (2-days total)
- Three virtual Cross-State Leadership Academy Sessions (3 hours each)
- Monthly pro-active TA session with CoE-TFR staff and SMEs (30 min. – 1 hour each)
- Convene State-Specific Leadership Academy
- Develop and implement State-Specific Action Plan
- Collect, report, and use readily available data and information to monitor progress and continuous improvement

Benefits of Participation

- Free, individualized technical assistance from experts in tobacco and behavioral health policy, systems and social norms change to promote tobacco-free recovery.
- Opportunity to learn and share with peers from other states.
- Reduce the economic burden of tobacco on people, families, communities, and the health care system.
- Strengthen relationships and identify opportunities to achieve a shared vision of improving and saving lives and treatment outcomes for people with behavioral health conditions who use tobacco across your state.
- Identify strategies that advance health equity by meaningful inclusion of people, families, and communities affected by tobacco and behavioral health conditions.

Funding Considerations for Participation

All costs associated with state participation in leadership academy will be funded by the CoE-TFR. In addition, we will cover costs associated with state teams convening their own State-wide Leadership Academy.

How Will We Measure Our Success?

As part of the Cross-State Leadership Academy, we will identify and adopt a set of shared metrics for measuring and monitoring impact. For the State-Specific Leadership Academy, we will tailor measures of progress and success based on local data and evaluation aligned with state action plans.

Timeline of Key Activities

Over 18-months, starting in March 2024 and ending in September 2025, 4 states will convene and work together, and in their own state, to plan and implement state-specific action plans to reduce tobacco use among people with behavioral health conditions. Key activities and timelines associated with participation in the Leadership Academy are described below.

Table 1. Cross-State Leadership Academy Timeline of Key Activities

Activity	Month
Dissemination of Leadership Academy Application	January 2024
CoE-TFR Leadership Academy Overview and Application Process Webinar	February 06, 2024
Applications Due	Feb 12, 2024 10pm EST
Review of applications including 30-minute interviews	February 12-26 2024
Selection of states announced	February 29, 2024
Leadership Academy Kick-off Orientation Webinar	March 12, 2024 2pm
Completion of Pre-Work Assignments	April 11, 2024
Leadership Academy In-Person Opening Session (2 days)	April 18 th and April 19 th 2024
Leadership Academy Virtual Session 1 (3 hours)	June 05, 2024 2pm-5pm
Leadership Academy Virtual Session 2 (3 hours)	October 1, 2024 2pm-5pm
Leadership Academy Virtual Session 3 (3 hours)	February 7, 2025 2pm-5pm
In-Person Closing Session (2 days)	June 2025
Optional Affinity Group Virtual Meetings (up to 4 lasting 90 min)	March 2024 – August 2025
States Convene State-Specific Leadership Academies (with support from CoE-TFR expert facilitators and SMEs)	June 2024 – September 2025
Monthly pro-active TA sessions and on-demand TA (as requested)	March 2024 – September 2025
Continue to provide TA as needed	September 2025- 2028
Summative Congress for all 3 State Leadership Academy Cohorts (12 states) at end of the project	2028

Who to Contact:

If you have any questions about this charter, the State Leadership Academy application or your eligibility to participate, please contact CoE-TFR Project Director, David Davis, at ddavis@caiglobal.org.