R3 Expanding Evidence on Replicable Recovery and Reunification Interventions for Families

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The purpose of this call is to identify **child welfare or related agencies** that may be interested in partnering with the R3 project, a federal effort to replicate and evaluate interventions that use *recovery coaches* for families involved in the child welfare system due to parental substance use disorder (SUD). **Expressions of Interest submitted by Friday, January 22, 2021** may lead to individualized exploratory conversations with the R3 project team aimed at information sharing, gauging interest in the R3 project and candidate interventions, and identifying potential state and local partners for a future evaluation.

WHAT IS R3?

Parental SUD is among the most common reasons families become involved in the child welfare system. Child welfare jurisdictions are increasingly turning to interventions that use recovery coaches in their efforts to improve access to and engagement in treatment and recovery support services, with the goal of improving parental recovery and child welfare outcomes. Yet, there is limited evidence on the effectiveness of these interventions.

R3 is a long-term initiative of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) authorized under the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.*[1] Its goals are to replicate promising family recovery and reunification interventions that use recovery coaches, and conduct an impact and implementation evaluation to build evidence that meets the standards of the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. ACF contracted with Abt Associates for the first phase of the R3 project, to lay the groundwork for the rigorous federal evaluation.

I KNOW AN AGENCY THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

→ R3 identified three interventions as potential candidates for replication and evaluation, using an independent and systematic scan and readiness-assessment process informed by experts in child welfare, SUD recovery, and related fields. **This call seeks to explore jurisdictions' potential interest in adopting either of the following two interventions:**

- **Family Recovery and Reunification Program** (FRRP; developed by Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)
- **Parent Mentor Program** (PMP; developed by Morrison Child and Family Services)

R3 identified a third candidate, Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START), through the same methods. Jurisdictions currently implementing START are being considered for possible inclusion in R3 under a separate process. R3 may not include all three interventions.

Jurisdictions ultimately selected to participate in the R3 evaluation will benefit from:

- **Technical assistance** from the intervention developer and the evaluation team.
- **Supplemental funds** to offset costs of participating in the evaluation and/or establishing the intervention.
- **Opportunity** to build evidence eligible for review by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse.
- **National visibility** and the potential to help inform nationwide policies and practices.

Additional information about FRRP and PMP is attached. Please refer all questions about the interventions to R3Families@abtassoc.com.

→ R3 is not a program funding opportunity. It is an opportunity to take part in the first stages of a new evidence-building initiative helping parents, children, and communities affected by SUD and child maltreatment—areas of urgent need due to the opioid epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic.

[1] Refer to Section 8082 of the 2018 Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act.

HOW DO I EXPRESS INTEREST?

Send an email to R3Families@abtassoc.com. Provide the following in the email:

1. Organization or Agency Name and links to an organization website
2. Point of Contact Name, Title, Email Address, Phone Number
3. Relevant information about the jurisdiction. For example: (1) the jurisdiction's current approach to providing recovery and reunification supports to families involved in the child welfare system due to SUD; (2) interest in and capacity for establishing such an approach in your state or local child welfare jurisdiction; (3) why R3 may be of interest to the jurisdiction.

Please submit responses by **January 22, 2021**. The R3 project team will review responses and may contact you for further information. We look forward to hearing from you!

WE WELCOME QUESTIONS! CONTACT US AT R3Families@abtassoc.com.

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