### Project Description:

West Virginia is a state that has been particularly hard hit with the ravages of the opioid epidemic. The WV Department of Health & Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), in partnership with the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment, have organized the development & implementation of a comprehensive three-year strategic plan that sets the state's goals, strategies, & key performance indicators around substance use. One focus area that is challenging in the state substance use response plan is the Community Engagement & Supports section. In this section, universal barriers to long-term recovery are identified & challenged. These essential supports for individuals allow West Virginians in recovery to enter recovery networks & build employment skills, find housing, & address transportation needs for successful community reentry. Strategic plan implementation is in its second year & two intensive task teams have been formed to specifically address transportation & employment strategies statewide. The task teams meet monthly to discuss baseline data, make assessments of current resources, conduct gap analysis, research national models, & document recommendations for future projects. A student is placed at our site would play a large role in these task teams. There is much work to be done in West Virginia to support people in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). Communities & regions across the state have mobilized to combat the SUD crisis & stigma by working to increase availability of, & access to, treatment & recovery support. Specifically the student will contribute to the following tasks.

- develop surveys to collect baseline data & conduct resource gap analysis of results;
- study & present national models of recovery support for rural relevance & application;
- support establishment of relationships with statewide stakeholders to increase understanding of rural barriers to successful treatment & long-term recovery;
- increase knowledge of SUD in Appalachia, specifically identifying groups/populations where stigma awareness would be useful; and
- support planning & implementation of trainings on SUD & stigma.

### Project Duration:

200–250 hours

### Special Skill:

- proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint); public speaking; meeting facilitation; communication, teamwork, and organizational skills; self-direction
- knowledge and passion for understanding SUD, stigma awareness/reduction, harm reduction, and supportive services for people with SUD

### Additional Requirements:

n/a

### Agency:

WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy

### Location:

Work will be conducted virtually.

### Site Supervisor:

Rachel Thaxton, ODCP Assistant Director

### Application Due Date:

rolling