

## Hernando County Opioid Prevention Grant

Agency Name: NAMI Hernando, Inc.

Mailing Address: 4030 Commercial Way Spring Hill, FL 34606

Project Name: Certified Recovery Peer Support (CRPS) Intern Program

### Project Description:

Peer support workers are people who have been successful in the recovery process who help others experiencing mental health and substance use disorders. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse. Peer support services can effectively extend the reach of treatment beyond the clinical setting into the everyday environment of those seeking a successful, sustained recovery process. Our CRPS Intern Program will prepare participants to become Certified Recovery Peer Specialist by developing a behavioral health training site with peer to peer mentoring.

### Statement of need:

The Hernando County Community Health Assessment process launched in February of 2019 reported in the area of mental and behavioral health care, rates of professional's in Hernando County were markedly lower than state rates. At 28.7 per 100,000 the rate of licensed mental health counselors was near half that of the state rate of 53.8 and the Hernando County rate of psychologists at 3.2 was more than seven times lower than the state rate of 23.1 per 100,000. Certified Recovery Peer Specialists serve the community by filling the gaps in the continuum of care by providing nonclinical support services. Participants can be fully certified in as little as 6 months therefore meeting the increasing demands currently being experienced by our fragile behavioral health system.

### Project goals and objectives:

**Outcome Goals:** Participants in the CRPS Intern Program at our Beautiful Mind Center will be trained to successfully apply and show competency in the domains of Recovery Support, Advocacy, Mentoring and Professional Responsibilities. Professional endorsements of work experience will be provided to participants upon successful completion of the CRPS Intern Program per the credentialing requirements of the Florida Certification Board.

**Outcome Indicators:** Those that have successfully met all the requirements of the program will be prepared to pass the state exam and make application to the Florida Certification Board.

### Capacity:

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. What began in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. NAMI Hernando has been providing peer support in Hernando county since 1985. Therefore, the most equipped organization to train and supervise peers through the certification process. Our Beautiful Mind Center

gives participants an environment to utilize the skills they learn while meeting the increasing demand of our community.

#### Project design:

The Peer Development Director will:

- Interviews program participants to ensure they meet the lived experience and recovery guidelines of the Florida Certification Board.
- Coordinate virtual training for each participant and monitor individual progress through the training modules.
- Develop plans with participants to attain all require documentation for the application process.
- Provide on-the-job training and supervision per the Florida Certification Board requirements.
- Assist participant in submitting application to the Florida Certification Board.

#### Existing Resources:

The resources consumed by our CRPS Intern Program include Executive Director, office space, utilities, supplies, resource materials, phone, internet, computers, software, evaluation tools, funding and program marketing.

#### New Resources:

Currently the Executive Director is filling the role of Peer Development Director to provide these much-needed services to our community. However, as the awareness grows so does the demand for services. Our goal is to hire a full time Peer Development Director. The funding from this grant would be used to help pay for the training material, peer supervision, DCF Level II Background screening, participant application and exam fees and a portion of the existing resources.

#### Tools for evaluation:

Our goal is 90% of program participants will successfully submit an application to the Florida Certification Board. This is measured by documentation of application submittal.

#### Time Frame: July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

Quarter 1: Screen and select 10 program participants, initiate virtual training and begin monitoring progress and supervising peer support work experience.

Quarter 2: Screen and select 10 additional program participants, initiate virtual training and begin monitoring progress and supervising peer support work experience.

Quarter 3: Develop plans with participants to attain all require documentation for the application process, continue to provide on-the-job training and supervision, and assist 5 participants in submitting applications to the Florida Certification Board.

Quarter 4: Develop plans with participants to attain all require documentation for the application process, continue to provide on-the-job training and supervision, and assist 5 participants in submitting applications to the Florida Certification Board.

Target population:

Mental illness, including Substance Use Disorder, does not discriminate, people of all genders, races, ethnicities, ages, upbringings, and socioeconomic statuses are affected by mental health conditions. We serve the residents of Hernando County living with mental health and substance use disorders.

Site(s):

Our CRPS Intern program will be offered at our Beautiful Mind Center located at 4030 Commercial Way Spring Hill, FL 34606. However, while attaining their hour's program participants may work from home or in the community to provide services virtually and in-person.

Budget:

	Requested Funding	Totals
Salaries	\$25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Meeting Space	\$3,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
Utilities	\$250.00	\$ 500.00
Phone/Internet	\$250.00	\$ 500.00
Training Material	\$6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Resource Materials	\$2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
FCS Applications/Exam	\$1,350.00	\$ 2,700.00
Background checks	\$150.00	\$ 300.00
	\$40,500.00	\$ 82,000.00

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