



## **Targeted Technical Assistance**

*Implementing Recommendations of  
The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health*

### *What is Targeted Technical Assistance?*

Targeted Technical Assistance provides state-of-the-art policy analysis and technical assistance to multiple stakeholders in a state's public mental health system. Drawing on a network of policy experts available through seven leading national mental health organizations, the Targeted Technical Assistance project is organized to deliver written analysis or on-site training and technical assistance on a range of policy issues related to the implementation of the recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

The federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) has contracted with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) to coordinate this project and to collaborate with six subcontractors: the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils (NAMHPAC), the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH), and the National Mental Health Association (NMHA). Together, the seven organizations have access to the nation's leading experts in mental health policy at the state and federal levels.

### *Who is eligible?*

Any entity with a stake in a state's public mental health system may request Targeted Technical Assistance on an issue facing that state's mental health system. It is expected that the state mental health authority will endorse each request or be actively involved in proposed activities. A major goal of the project is to provide technical assistance to a broad range of stakeholders, including: consumers, family members of adults with serious mental illness and of children with serious emotional disturbance, mental health planning councils, staff of state mental health agencies and other state departments, providers, and advocates. The partners in the Targeted Technical Assistance project are particularly interested in providing its services to traditionally underserved populations.



### *Who provides Targeted Technical Assistance?*

The partners in the Targeted Technical Assistance project together can access a vast network of recognized experts in policy formulation and implementation, decision-making, leadership development, and strategic planning. In many cases, technical assistance is provided by one or more experts associated with the partner organizations. Some subjects, however, may require recruitment of identified experts from technical assistance centers and other institutions outside the partnership.

### *Examples of Issues*

Requests for assistance can be made on policy issues that arise as a state public mental health system implements recommendations issued by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in its July 2003 final report. Technical assistance provided under this contract will aid in the implementation of recommendations found under the Commission's six goals:

- Americans Understand that Mental Health Is Essential to Overall Health
- Mental Health Care Is Consumer and Family Driven
- Disparities in Mental Health Services Are Eliminated
- Early Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Referral to Services Are Common Practice
- Excellent Mental Health Care Is Delivered and Research Is Accelerated
- Technology Is Used to Access Mental Health Care and Information.

### *Types of Assistance*

Technical assistance may be delivered under a variety of formats, although the involvement of multiple stakeholders is always required. For many requests, on-site, face-to-face meetings are the preferred approach. These may include focus groups, group trainings, mini conferences, workshops, and site visits. Regional or multi-state meetings or conferences on subjects related to the Commission's recommendations may also be considered.

The Targeted Technical Assistance project is prepared to cover the costs associated with identifying and securing appropriate policy experts, including travel, lodging, and honoraria or fees as well as other selected costs. Applicants may be asked to provide budget information during the review process. Under this project, the seven participating organizations are also developing documents or other tools on a variety of issues common to state mental health systems. Such tools and documents include reports, brochures, white papers, and tool kits providing specific information on addressing a particular issue.

For further information on Targeted Technical Assistance, please contact William Emmet, Project Director, at (703) 739-9333, x136 or [bill.emmet@nasmhpd.org](mailto:bill.emmet@nasmhpd.org).