

State Pilot Project to Improve Addiction Treatment

The Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) *State Pilot Project to Improve Addiction Treatment* is designed to build upon and disseminate the foundational work of NIATx. As with NIATx's work with treatment providers, the State Pilot Project is part of an innovative collaborative between *Paths to Recovery* and *Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention*, two addiction treatment quality improvement programs funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, respectively.

The mission of NIATx is to assist the addiction treatment community in making more efficient use of their treatment capacity and to encourage ongoing improvements in treatment access and retention. The aims of the project are to: reduce the time between a client's first request for service and their first treatment session; reduce the percentage of client no-shows; increase admissions; and increase the treatment continuation rate.

The purpose of the NIATx State Pilot Project is to: (1) identify how states can exercise leadership roles to improve treatment quality; (2) use demonstrated process improvement methods to design and test how states and other payers can work together with providers to improve access and retention in addiction treatment; and (3) document and disseminate innovative practices used by states and payers in collaboration with treatment providers to improve quality performance.





The design of the State Pilot Project is to: (1) develop an infrastructure to support process improvement at the state and treatment provider level; (2) give Single State Agencies (SSAs) the opportunity to test the use of process improvement techniques on a small scale; and (3) use what is learned to develop a strategic plan to improve access and retention statewide. In each pilot state, the SSA director and a designated state team change leader work in partnership with managed behavioral health organizations, state provider associations, NIATx treatment providers, and other

stakeholders to develop provider learning networks and pilot the implementation of improvements to increase client access and retention.

State process improvement teams can impact provider access and retention practices through a variety of methods; therefore, the pilot project gives states flexibility in choosing the approach that best fits their circumstances. Examples of methods that states can use to enhance treatment quality include: amending requirements on providers that act as barriers to access and retention; providing incentives for increasing access and retention; altering accreditation or licensure requirements; and providing technical assistance.

States can have a profound impact on addiction treatment performance. By leveraging their role as major purchasers of addiction treatment services, states can spread practices that improve access and retention as well as guide performance improvement. This initiative will aid states in improving the performance of their provider networks.

Meeting the Project **Aims**

-  Reduce Waiting Times
-  Reduce No-Shows
-  Increase Admissions
-  Increase Continuation Rates

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STATE PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE ADDICTION TREATMENT MEMBERS: States and Pilot Providers

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