

**Center for
African American
Recovery Development**



***Capacity Building
Technical Training &
Assistance***

2024



African American RCO Capacity Building Project

CAARD leads in the creation of RCOs that are culturally tailored to meet the unique needs of African American communities:

- Engaging the local recovery support community in strategy initiatives
- Securing the critical support of local political and health care stakeholders
- Facilitating 501(c)(3) processes
- Partnering in community needs assessments to ensure that each RCO is attuned to the unique requirements of its locale.

The urgency of our mission is underscored by sobering national statistics. With numbers soaring post pandemic, recent years have witnessed a devastating 44% increase in drug overdose fatalities among African Americans from 2019 to 2020, compared to a 30% increase for individuals of all racial backgrounds. CAARD, born out of this pressing crisis, is a collaborative of successful leaders within the RCO movement with the experience and cultural insight needed to engage community members.

CAARD is dedicated to continue to focus nationally on culturally tailored strategies to combat Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and overdose fatalities in underserved communities. Our central emphasis is empowering local communities by birthing community specific, enduring RCOs that can bring about substantial positive change in the lives of African Americans within these regions.



Technical Training & Assistance

- **Organizational Development Support:** Guidance on establishing and structuring RCOs, including advice on forming a mission, vision, and organizational objectives that align with the needs of communities of color;
- **Resource Mobilization:** Assistance in identifying and securing funding sources, building grant writing skills, and financial management strategies to sustain and grow RCOs;
- **Program Development:** Help in designing and implementing culturally sensitive programs and interventions for substance use disorder, including practice-based evidence and peer support models;
- **Cultural Competency Training:** Industry corporate coaching and training staff and volunteers within RCOs to understand and address the specific needs of the communities they reflect, fostering inclusivity and cultural sensitivity.
- **Advocacy and Engagement Strategies:** Coaching on effective community engagement, partnership building, and advocacy techniques to amplify RCO's impact and reach throughout diverse communities
- **Technical Training:** Offering workshops or seminars on leadership development, and operational aspects, such as legal compliance, research & data, and best practices for organizational efficiency.



CAARD Partnership Outcomes:

Community Engagement and Empowerment

- CAARD's mission involves engaging grassroots community leaders in the self-determined formation of RCOs. Our participatory approach ensures that the solutions and strategies developed are rooted in the lived experiences and needs of underserved communities.

Advocacy and Sustainable Solutions:

- Beyond immediate support, CAARD promotes systemic change in addressing the specific impact of substance use disorders in BIPOC communities. Our guidance helps BIPOC led RCOs advocate for resource policy changes and sustainable programming strategies directly improving health outcomes and reducing disparities.

Network and Resources:

- Through our collective of experts, we offer a network of resources, connections, and best practices that can be shared with BIPOC RCOs, offering a wealth of knowledge, and national expertise.

CAARD Technical Training Team:

- Our team at CAARD is a working Board of Directors and staff who serve as experts available to deliver technical training and assistance. Moreover, we are the Founding Board of Directors with direct access to industry experts well-versed in the specific needs of BIPOC communities.





BLACK RECOVERY MATTERS!

"Bringing culturally responsive recovery pathways to our communities is direly important!

Black-run and Black-led recovery community organizations are essential.

They fill a crucial gap in the healthcare system by providing relevant support while breaking down barriers, reducing disparities, and promoting healing for our loved ones in in the Black community."

- Nyla Christian, CAARD Executive Director

Join the CAARD movement!

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