

Project Summary/Abstract

Title: Improving Access, Continuing Care and Treatment (IMPACCT)
Applicant: Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF)
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The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) proposes to develop a three-year comprehensive statewide strategic treatment and communications plan to improve treatment for adolescents (age 12-18) with substance use disorders with or without co-occurring mental health disorders. This project will be known local as **IMP**roving **A**ccess, Continuing **C**are and **T**reatment (IMPACCT). DCF will specifically partner with the Judicial Branch Court Support Services (CSSD), which funds services to youth involved with juvenile justice, to lead the development of a plan to improve and align policies, practices and funding in support of EBPs for youth. IMPACCT's overall goal is to develop a comprehensive 3-year strategic plan for system improvements that enhance statewide coordination of the multiple treatment and continuing care systems for youth in support of better access to and retention in high quality care. IMPACCT will achieve its goals by: 1) Partnering with existing statewide youth and family groups to inform policy, program and effective practice; 2) Identifying strategies to expand the capacity of the substance use and mental health disorders treatment and continuing care workforce; 3) Developing pragmatic funding and payment strategies for EBPs; 4) Increasing screening for youth in diverse settings; 5) Enhancing existing data infrastructure to improve access to administrative data; 6) Improving collaboration across state agencies and branches of government; and 7) Expanding an existing provider collaborative. The target population for IMPACCT is adolescents 12-18 years with problems related to substance use with or without co-occurring disorders.

IMPACCT will further efforts by DCF toward developing and sustaining an evidence-based substance treatment system at all levels of care. These efforts include implementation by DCF of evidence-based treatment models for outpatient, intensive in-home services and residential care and the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) system-wide. IMPACCT will develop a statewide strategic implementation plan to identify important gaps in Connecticut's systems and address issues of access to the multiple treatment systems related to unequal distribution of services, access policies, quality and accessibility of data in existing MIS system; lack of knowledge in communities about the existence of treatment services; sustainability of existing EBPs in an increasingly challenging fiscal environment; and the lack of recovery support and continuing care services for youth and their families.