

# Homelessness Volunteer Training:

## Resources related to substance use and co-occurring disorders

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**Addiction Policy Forum.** (<https://www.addictionpolicy.org>. *The Addiction series*. Very short (3-4 minute) introductory educational videos about the biology and psychology of substance use disorder. The Addiction Policy Forum was founded in 2015 by people impacted by addiction. The group “works in states and communities across the country to end stigma, help patients and families, and translate the science around addiction.”  
<https://www.addictionpolicy.org/videos>

**Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network.** <https://attcnetwork.org>. *Building resiliency and compassion in the workforce.* <https://attcnetwork.org/centers/global-attc/compassion-resources>. Explore this website for resources to promote your own resilience and self-care and that of others. The ATTC Network “is an international, multidisciplinary resource for professionals in the addictions treatment and recovery services field.” Offers wide variety of resources and information about training opportunities.

**Mission Harbor Behavioral Health** (<https://sbtreatment.com>). *What’s the Connection Between Homelessness and Addiction?* A short overview of how addiction can lead to homelessness, but also how persons experiencing the trauma and stress of homelessness may self-medicate and then develop a substance use disorder. <https://sbtreatment.com/homelessness-addiction/>

**Magwood, Olivia, et al.** (January 2020). *The effectiveness of substance use interventions for homeless and vulnerably housed persons*. PLOS open access journals at <http://plos.org>. This research reviews studies of “the effectiveness of substance use interventions of relevance to homeless and vulnerably housed populations with concomitant substance use disorder. . . . The review found that these interventions reduce harms associated with substance use and mitigate morbidity and mortality . . . Since homelessness and unstable housing are factors that continue to be associated with public injection, infection, and reduced access to care . . .this further highlights the importance of offering low threshold services in close proximity to homeless populations and integrating housing supportive services for individuals who are homeless and have concomitant substance use disorders.”  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0227298>

**National Coalition for the Homeless.** (2017) *Substance Abuse and Homelessness—Fact Sheet* Summary of facts about prevalence of substance use among persons experiencing homelessness, and promotion of harm reduction models of treatment and housing policies.  
<https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Substance-Abuse-and-Homelessness.pdf>

**U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov). Following are two useful resources if you want more in-depth information about the topics introduced in our short training session.

- SAMHSA. (2020). *Substance use disorder treatment for people with co-occurring disorders*. This updated resource “is intended to provide addiction counselors and other providers, supervisors, and administrators with the latest science in the screening, assessment, diagnosis, and management of co-occurring disorders (CODs).” Book available for free download at <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/tip-42-substance-use-treatment-persons-co-occurring-disorders/PEP20-02-01-004>
- SAMHSA. (2019). *Enhancing motivation for change in substance use disorder treatment*. This updated resource “includes the latest evidence on motivation-enhancing approaches and strategies. It describes how substance use disorder treatment providers can use these approaches and strategies to increase participation and retention in substance use disorder treatment.” Book available for free download at [https://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-35-Enhancing-Motivation-for-Change-in-Substance-Use-Disorder-Treatment/PEP19-02-01-003?referer=from\\_search\\_result](https://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-35-Enhancing-Motivation-for-Change-in-Substance-Use-Disorder-Treatment/PEP19-02-01-003?referer=from_search_result)

**University of South Florida.** ([www.usf.edu](http://www.usf.edu)). *Co-occurring Disorders Training*  
This no fee training series is available through the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida. Available at: <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/mhlp/training/co-occurring-disorders-training.aspx>

The series “offers a comprehensive overview for counselors on topics related to assessing and treating persons with co-occurring disorders. A certificate of completion is available at no cost. **Continuing Education Credits are available for a fee** for some categories of licensed professionals in Florida including Psychologists, Social Workers, Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Addiction Professionals” Professionals in other geographic areas may find the certification useful depending on the requirements of their region