

engaged

*influencing*  
public policy

empowerment

story-telling

knowledge

health & well-being

## SUMMARY

NCADD-New Jersey, dedicated to working in partnership with and on behalf of individuals, families, and communities affected by alcohol and drug addiction, is pleased to announce a call for applications for its 2008 Advocacy Leadership Program. In its inaugural year, the Advocacy Leadership Program is designed to foster, support and promote a generation of leaders in New Jersey committed to confronting the state's most pressing addiction treatment, prevention and recovery issues.

The program will accept up to 40 New Jersey residents to participate in an ongoing program to increase their leadership knowledge and skills in order to better advocate and advance effective public policies that promote treatment, prevention and recovery strategies that will improve the health and well-being of those affected by alcohol and drug addiction in New Jersey.

## PURPOSE

The Advocacy Leadership Program aims to develop highly knowledgeable and trained citizens of New Jersey, especially those most impacted or affected by alcohol and drug addiction, who will contribute significantly by participating in policy decisions that influence the treatment and prevention of, as well as recovery from, alcohol and drug addiction. The issues at the forefront of the Program are closing the state's addiction treatment gap; ending the stigmatization of addiction by promoting recovery; ending discrimination experienced by persons in recovery; and, preventing addiction. The Program will foster engaged and educated advocates by building an understanding of self-advocacy, legislative / government processes, social change models, story-telling, as well as how to use social capital as a way of influencing others to take action. The ultimate goal is to have Advocacy Leaders become fully empowered advocates engaged in systems change efforts via core leadership teams established throughout New Jersey.

## BACKGROUND

Addiction is a public health problem that affects many people and has wide-ranging social consequences for individuals with addiction, for family members, for employers, and for communities in New Jersey. 3-in-4 New Jersey residents report knowing someone with an alcohol or drug problem, while 1-in-5 reports having a family member with a problem.

The lack of access to quality care has been well documented in New Jersey. In 2006, there were 54,825 addiction treatment admissions in New Jersey – down 13 percent or more than 8,000 from nearly 63,000 admissions from just ten years ago because fewer people are able to access treatment due to limited treatment capacity. The New Jersey Division of Addiction Services reports more than 21,000 people sought addiction treatment in 2007 but could not access it as a result.

It is well established that addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery advocacy has lacked a large, dedicated constituency engaged in efforts to accomplish improved access to a quality continuum of care. Much of this can be attributed to shame, stigma, and discrimination – conditions that are known to exist in relation to alcohol and drug addiction.

In a 2001 survey by of people in recovery and family members, Faces and Voices of Recovery found a substantial number of people in recovery said that once in recovery, they faced discrimination or social shame. These findings were further confirmed in a 2002 survey commissioned by NCADD–New Jersey that found that almost half of New Jerseyans said they would be more guarded meeting someone in recovery than they would be in general. Furthermore, 40 percent of New Jersey citizens still view alcohol and drug addiction as a personal weakness instead of a health problem.

Attitudes that continue to stigmatize people with an addiction or in recovery discourage them, their family members and others from coming forward to create a formidable constituency.



This in turn has undermined advocacy efforts, whether at the systems level or on particular issues, such as access to treatment.

A fundamental goal, therefore, of the Advocacy Leadership Program is equipping advocates with the skills and knowledge to confront and overcome stigma and discrimination. The knowledge acquired in the Program will empower a treatment, prevention and recovery constituency that will translate into effective action and advocacy, making possible both systems and specific policy changes.

## COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Advocacy Leaders make a commitment to attend one weekend retreat in late June 2008, no more than six additional education sessions and other ongoing activities focused on developing core leadership teams throughout New Jersey. Learning occurs through participatory sessions, team learning projects, and peer-to-peer consultations. Additionally, Advocacy Leaders participate in activities that demonstrate their leadership ability to influence others to take collective actions to close the state's addiction treatment gap; end the stigmatization of addiction and discrimination experienced by persons in recovery; and, prevent addiction.



*Benefits include the following:*

- Leaders will enhance their knowledge and skills of leadership and addiction treatment, prevention and recovery issues through one weekend retreat and additional education sessions.
- Leaders will meet with national, state, local leaders and policymakers.
- Leaders will receive a limited number of professional coaching sessions.
- Leaders will have the opportunity to influence addiction treatment, prevention and recovery policy.
- Leaders will develop long-lasting professional and personal relationships with peers.
- Leaders will be recognized as members of the Advocacy Leadership Program Inaugural Class at a special Recognition Luncheon.

*The Advocacy Leadership Program equips advocates with the skills and knowledge to become fully empowered leaders engaged in systems change efforts throughout New Jersey*



## **APPLICATIONS**

**Application materials can be found at [www.ncaddnj.org](http://www.ncaddnj.org)**

Applications will be assessed based on the applicant's residency status, the answers provided in the essay section of the application and the applicant's commitment to fully participate in all aspects of the Advocacy Leadership Program.

NCADD-New Jersey board of directors' members and staff will review applications and determine the final candidates for the 2008 Advocacy Leadership Program.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION**

*Applicants must:*

- Be a resident of New Jersey and demonstrate professional or volunteer work that directly impacts on the treatment and prevention of, or recovery from, alcohol and drug addiction in New Jersey.
- Have experience or interest in working to influence others to take collective actions to close the state's addiction treatment gap; end the stigmatization of addiction and discrimination experienced by persons in recovery; and, prevent addiction.
- Show strong evidence of leadership experience or potential for leadership, as demonstrated by community service, life or work experience and formal education.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the treatment and prevention of, as well as recovery from, alcohol and drug addiction.
- Able to commit to full participation in all Advocacy Leadership Program activities including ability to attend the Advocacy Leader retreat on Friday evening and Saturday, June 27-28, 2008; no more than six additional education sessions; and, other ongoing activities focused on developing core leadership teams throughout New Jersey.

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE E-MAILED, FAXED OR MAILED TO:**

NCADD-New Jersey  
Attn: 2008 Advocacy Leadership Program  
John L. Hulick, MS, CPS-Director, Public Affairs and Policy  
NCADD-New Jersey  
360 Corporate Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
E-mail: [jhulick@ncaddnj.org](mailto:jhulick@ncaddnj.org) | Fax: (609) 689-3244

## **TIMELINE**

May 30 | Deadline for Applications  
June 7 | 2008 Advocacy Leadership Notification  
June 27 and 28 | Weekend Retreat

## **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**609-689-0121, ext. 7009 or [jhulick@ncaddnj.org](mailto:jhulick@ncaddnj.org)**





360 Corporate Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
609.689.0121 (PH) | 609.689.3244 (FX)  
[WWW.NCADDNJ.ORG](http://WWW.NCADDNJ.ORG)

The Advocacy Leadership Program has been made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services.

Technical Assistance and Scholarships provided by Join Together through funding from Charles Evans Hughes Foundation.

Technical Assistance also provided by Faces and Voices of Recovery.

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is shown from the back, with their arms raised to hold a rectangular sign. The sign is a light green color with the text "OVERCOME STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION" written on it in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**OVERCOME  
STIGMA AND  
DISCRIMINATION**