

ABOUT US

A national leader in behavioral health technical assistance and research, Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA) is a certified Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) founded in 1987. In collaboration with our close partner non-profit, Policy Research, Inc. (PRI), we offer four core services: research and evaluation, technical assistance, training, and policy evaluation. Through our work, we transform services and systems that support individuals with behavioral health needs on their journey to recovery. Our content areas of focus are:

- Behavioral Health
- Criminal Justice
- Homelessness and Housing Resources
- Income Supports
- People with Lived Experience
- Recovery Support
- Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- Systems Change
- Systems Mapping
- Trauma and Violence
- Wellness and Well-Being
- Youth Opportunity and Justice

We have the capacity to offer a broad range of services and to administer large-scale projects. Our extensive range of experience includes the operation of national technical assistance centers and large-scale evaluations for federal, state, and foundation clients, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Justice, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

VALUES

We are a mission-driven, caring organization that fosters an inclusive workplace and elevates diverse perspectives and experiences. We believe that mutual respect leads to learning and collaboration. We use these values to guide our work, workplace, and our positive social impact.

SERVICES

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Our researchers structure data collection to evaluate program transformation, design research protocols, train staff, gather and analyze data, and present results in formats geared toward policymakers and funders.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Our technical assistance services are available to states, cities, counties, tribes, and community-based organizations to assist with the implementation of evidence-based practices and support services.

TRAINING

We provide virtual and in-person training workshops in our areas of expertise to help communities transform behavioral health service delivery. Our workshops are offered as training deliveries or train-the-trainer events.

POLICY EVALUATION

We work with communities to review, assess, and suggest policy at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure that there is systemic support for initiatives and that populations of focus receive the services to which they are entitled.

WORK HIGHLIGHTS

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation (since 1995)

SAMHSA SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Center (since 2009)

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center (since 2010)

SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center (since 2020)

SAMHSA's Program to Achieve Wellness (2015–2018)

SAMHSA's Statewide Family and Consumer Networks Technical Assistance Center (2009–2014)

BJA's Academic-Based Training to Inform Police Responses (since 2020)

BJA's VALOR Initiative: Crisis Intervention Training Model Program (2017–2020)

MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge—Serious Mental Illness Technical Assistance (since 2015)

SSA's Analyzing Relationships Between Disability, Rehabilitation, and Work (ARDRAW) Small Grant Program (since 2011)

National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (2001–2022)