



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARK-T Introduced to Expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment

A New Initiative to Empower Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers Across California

Sacramento, CA - In response to the growing demand for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services throughout California, the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executive (CAADPE) today launched a groundbreaking initiative, SUD Providers Access to Resources, Knowledge, & Training (SPARK-T) Technical Assistance, to support small and mid-sized SUD providers in their efforts to expand and enhance SUD treatment services. SPARK-T, funded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and previously referred to as the DHCS Technical Assistance Grant, will play a critical role in transforming the landscape of SUD treatment by providing vital training and capacity-building resources.

As the need for comprehensive and accessible SUD treatment continues to surge, SPARK-T aims to bridge the gap in treatment by focusing on several key areas. One of the primary objectives of SPARK-T is to integrate harm reduction strategies into all SUD treatment services, ensuring providers can reach Californians who are currently in need of, but have yet to access, SUD treatment. By establishing lower-barrier care across the SUD system, SPARK-T is committed to making treatment more accessible and effective for all Californians.

SPARK-T Technical Assistance has already offered multiple webinars to SUD providers across California. These webinars have provided essential support and guidance, ensuring providers have the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the evolving challenges in SUD treatment.

"SPARK-T is more than just a grant; it's a catalyst for change," said Robb Layne, Executive Director of CAADPE. "Our goal is to empower SUD providers to deliver care that is effective, compassionate, and community-affirming."

SPARK-T will continue to offer a comprehensive range of training and technical assistance tailored to the unique needs of SUD providers. These services include providing guidance on understanding and implementing new initiatives, engaging in complex policy development processes, and expanding services and locations to meet the growing demand for SUD treatment.

Additionally, SPARK-T provides essential information and in-depth guidance on navigating Medicaid and other SUD services, helping providers enhance their service delivery and business practices.

By solidifying and expanding practices in a way that affirms and supports the community, SPARK-T is poised to make a significant impact on the overall health and wellness of SUD treatment consumers in California. The initiative's emphasis on capacity-building and technical support will help ensure that providers are well-equipped to provide quality, equitable, and timely SUD treatment.

For more information about SPARK-T and the resources available through this initiative, please visit caadpe.org/spark-t/ or contact CAADPE at ta@caadpe.org.

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About CAADPE: Established in 1989, CAADPE member agencies provide **SUD** treatment services at more than 300 sites in California. Together, we advocate for high-quality services to treat **SUDs** and co-occurring mental health disorders and make these services accessible and available to anyone who seeks care.

The California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executive

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