

## Increasing access, impacting lives.

**Connecticut Turning to Families** is a statewide organization focused on strengthening Connecticut's treatment and recovery services for youth and families facing drug or alcohol problems.

We give families that face drug and alcohol problems a place to turn for strength and support.

We work as partners with families, children, youth and their advocates to give them a unified voice to bring about family-centered advances in the substance abuse prevention and recovery systems of care.

Our vision is for Connecticut's youth and families to be addiction-free, healthy members of strong families and communities.

**Please do your part to make family-centered care a reality in Connecticut in 2008!**

Working together, we can make it happen.



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# Connecticut Turning to Families

## Who We Are.

**Connecticut Turning to Families** is a statewide organization established to strengthen Connecticut's treatment and recovery services for youth and families facing drug or alcohol abuse problems. Connecticut Turning to Families was established in 2006 with support from a federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment grant and the Connecticut Department for Children and Families.

**Our vision** is for Connecticut's youth and families to be addiction-free, healthy members of strong families and communities.



**Our mission** is to give families that face drug and alcohol abuse problems a place to turn for strength and support. We work as partners with families, children, youth and their advocates to give them a unified voice to bring about family-centered advances in the substance abuse prevention and recovery systems of care, ultimately to improve the wellbeing of youth and their families.

## What We Do.



Connecticut Turning to Families works for an effective, accessible system of substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services for Connecticut families.

We work closely with FAVOR and other nonprofit advocacy and intermediary organizations as well as state, federal and community partners to:

- Provide leadership, information, training and technical assistance
- Form family support groups to connect families affected by substance abuse with other families who have been there
- Develop youth programs
- Collect and analyze data and best practices

- Advocate for family and youth-centered health policies
- Collaborate with other partners to leverage our collective resources
- Award mini-grants
- Promote financial and results accountability.

## Why We Do It.

The health and well-being of thousands of youth and families is affected by adolescent substance abuse, but the problem is often overlooked, under-identified, or just plain misunderstood. The voice of families is largely absent from the system. It's time for a change.

*"Addiction touched our whole family, and yet the treatment systems talked to only one part of the family."*

In Connecticut, some 16,000 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 need treatment for illicit drug use but do not receive it. And 18,000 adolescents in Connecticut who need treatment for alcohol use don't get it either.

Those families that can get services for a child with substance use problems find that the treatment plans are usually designed for adults and almost always exclude families from treatment plans.



Connecticut's treatment system has to do a better of job than this in caring for adolescents and their families affected by substance abuse. The price of ignoring this issue is too high. The lives of our children are at stake.



## Where We're Headed.

Although several statewide initiatives to reform youth service programs are underway in Connecticut, they are uncoordinated "silo" efforts that so far have overlooked the need to engage families and youth. For families and youth to be included in initiatives to reform our substance abuse prevention and recovery systems of care, state agencies need unified, cohesive mandates and funding.

Connecticut Turning to Families asks for legislators' help to ensure that effective, accessible services, policies and funding exist for Connecticut's youth and families with substance abuse problems.



**With a broad-based stakeholder workgroup, together we can:**

1. Determine what adolescent substance abuse treatment services are available now and how they are accessed.
2. Map spending across state agencies for adolescent substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery support services.
3. Determine if the substance abuse services the state is funding actually work.
4. Create effective partnerships among professionals, families, and youth.
5. Update the state's regulations on adolescent substance abuse treatment for the first time since 1994.
6. Increase availability and use of data in policy-making and budgeting decisions.
7. Coordinate the procurement of prevention, treatment and recovery services across state agencies.
8. Focus on outcomes, best practice trends, evidence-based practice and performance contracting to increase federal and private financial funding.

*"I tried to get treatment for my son as soon as I knew he was using. I called three state agencies and they told me if he was not arrested, not bad enough, or not suicidal there were no treatment openings."*