

Transforming Systems to Promote Equitable Access to Recovery

As we learn more about social determinants of health and the complex and interconnected conditions that shape people’s lives, forward-thinking behavioral health leaders are striving to overcome bureaucratic, funding, and policy barriers to providing holistic, flexible, recovery-oriented supports.

C4 Innovations (C4) works with systems to galvanize and sustain meaningful change. Our recovery-oriented and equity-focused approach brings together experts with varied perspectives, including individuals and families with lived experience, to forge sustainable collaborations and work strategically across organizations, communities, and systems.

C4 is here to support strategic, systems-focused decision-making that results in progress towards accessible, equitable, trauma-informed, recovery-oriented systems. We have worked with more

than 35 state, territory, and tribal agency leaders to break down siloes and build cross-system collaboration that facilitates healing, wellness, and stability for individuals and families.

Especially as you face accelerated decision-making processes within your state, C4 can partner with you to:

- ✓ **Implement a Policy Academy** to initiate and support cross-agency systems changes. C4’s approach—honed over years of convening Policy Academies with more than 30 states, territories, and tribal authorities—engages stakeholders in developing and implementing action plans that advance recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems. Our Policy Academies proactively address power



C4’s work with systems is grounded in equity and recovery. We work across stakeholder groups and systems to identify common ground, facilitate multidirectional information sharing, and galvanize sustainable change. We center people with lived experience in all of our work – both as the people most impacted by service systems and as the sources of the wisdom, perspective, and inspiration that drive system transformation.

differentials between participants and bring stakeholders—including people with lived experience of marginalization and recovery—together to identify shared priorities; map services and gaps within systems that serve children, youth, families, and adults; commit to braiding funding and sharing data; and undertake analyses, action planning, and evaluation activities that drive transformation and equity.

- ✓ **Begin or deepen engagement** with other agencies or systems that are serving priority populations, through cross-training, shared planning,

facilitation, and collaborative change initiatives. Even within a service continuum, knowledge about effective services and supports may vary and limit access to life-saving resources. Such gaps in knowledge may result in policies that perpetuate barriers to treatment, recovery, family reunification, and overall well-being and opportunity. Priority topics for cross-learning might include trauma and specifically racial trauma, trauma-informed approaches, harm reduction, medication-assisted treatment, recovery supports and pathways, anti-racist and anti-stigma approaches, and family-centered care.

- ✓ **Support implementation of strategic priorities.** As systems prioritize new approaches, practices, or models to advance equitable recovery, C4 is able to provide direct support through expert training, technical assistance, coaching, consultation, evaluation, and other implementation support. C4 is skilled at leading training, implementation, and evaluation initiatives of all sizes, from targeted and local, to cross-system, regional, statewide, and national.

C4's Together in Recovery Initiative, developed in collaboration with the RIZE Massachusetts Foundation, leverages a range of approaches to maximize shared learning and connection across different professional and stakeholder groups.

[Learn More](#)

“The strength...has been the dissemination of innovation across jurisdictions. They brought together a group of thought leaders for strategic planning purposes which had an impact on our work. The facilitators were helpful, well-versed in the topic, and brought an outside perspective to a group that had fallen into a rut.”

—C4 Technical Assistance Recipient

- ✓ **Conduct a cross-system analysis** of legislative and funding changes to identify shared outcome goals at the individual, family, and community level and opportunities to leverage resources across agencies to advance equity and wellbeing for all.

(C4-operated) BRSS TACS changed the landscape of peer services in Rhode Island. Prior to this project, peers and community agencies from the substance use and mental health arena were aware of the parallel development of peer-to-peer support practice, but only beginning to explore the possibility of integrating the two. Our BRSS TACS project was able to identify a community need and, in a relatively short time, engage stakeholders. The stakeholders' connection to a process and resources allowed for consensual, significant movement forward. We learned the importance of having a strong peer presence on our team. There is nothing that can replace direct input from knowledgeable, dedicated people who understand firsthand what is important and who are passionate about their work. Their contributions are invaluable."

—C4 Technical Assistance Recipient

To learn more about C4's work with systems, please contact us at training@c4innovates.com

About C4 Innovations

C4 Innovations (C4) promotes equitable access to recovery, wellness, and housing stability for people who are systematically marginalized. We are committed to reducing disparities and achieving equitable outcomes by promoting best practices for individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use, mental illness, trauma, and housing instability. Central to C4's core values is the involvement of people with lived experience in all of our work. Over one-third of C4 staff identify as having lived experience of substance use, mental illness, trauma, or homelessness.

Using state-of-the-art research, training, facilitation, and implementation strategies, C4 helps individuals, agencies, communities, and systems deepen the impact of their work. C4 helps to strengthen organizations at multiple levels through training, technical assistance, coaching, workforce development initiatives, implementation of evidence-based and best practices, capacity building, systems change, and strategic planning to develop leadership and long-term sustainability. C4 supports multidisciplinary teams and communities to facilitate approaches that are inclusive, integrated, and collaborative. We are known by our collaborators as an organization that is mission-focused, grounded in both research and real-world experience, committed to high quality, and being trustworthy and reliable partners.