

NEWS RELEASE



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NCADD-NJ launches Class of 2009 Advocacy Leadership Program

TRENTON ... (March 25, 2009) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey (NCADD-NJ) is now accepting for applications for its 2009 Advocacy Leadership Program. The agency's Advocacy Leadership Program, which is in its second year, is designed to foster, support and promote a generation of leaders in New Jersey committed to closing the state's addiction treatment gap, to ending the stigmatization of addiction by promoting recovery, to ending discrimination experienced by persons in recovery, and to preventing addiction.

NCADD-NJ's Advocacy Class of 2009 will admit up to 30 New Jersey residents to participate in trainings that will increase their leadership knowledge and skills to better advocate for and advance effective public policies affecting addiction treatment, prevention and recovery strategies. Advocacy Leader Program participants will attend one weekend retreat, on June 12-13 in Trenton. Over the course of the year, the class of Leaders will be required to take part in up to six additional education sessions and ongoing activities focused on developing legislative leadership teams throughout New Jersey. The deadline for applications is April 24, 2009; for more information about the program, including a pdf to access applications, visit www.ncaddnj.org. Notification of acceptance to the program will be made by mid-May.

The Advocacy Leadership Program's primary goal is to support policies that respond to addiction as a public health problem affecting thousands of New Jersey residents and with wide-ranging social consequences for individuals, family members, employers, and communities. Polling commissioned by NCADD-NJ shows

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that three in four New Jersey residents report knowing someone with an alcohol or drug problem, while 1-in-5 report 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’s Division of Addiction Services reports more than 21,000 sought addiction treatment in 2007 but were unable to access care.

The 2008 class of leaders were active in last year’s Recovery Voices Count Initiative, which registered and educated candidates and voters about issues such as addiction treatment and stigma, and conducted a get-out-the-vote effort. They also testified at legislative hearings on such issues as re-entry and the future of the Governor’s Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

The 2009 Advocacy Leadership Program is made possible by a grant from the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap Initiative of the Open Society Institute.

NCADD-NJ is a non-profit organization that for more than a quarter century has dedicated itself to educating New Jersey’s citizens about alcohol and drug use issues, to advocating on state policies concerning individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and to reducing the stigma that frustrates a public health approach to the disease of addiction. More information about the council is available at its website, www.ncaddnj.org.

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