

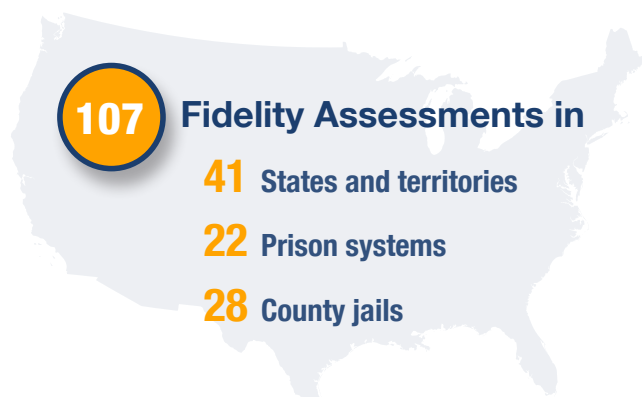
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program  
for State Prisoners—Training and Technical  
Assistance (RSAT-TTA)

# Fidelity Assessment Initiative

## Scope and Purpose

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) issued [Promising Practices Guidelines for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs](#) (PPGs) in 2017. BJA offers assessments of fidelity to these guidelines through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program for State Prisoners—Training and Technical Assistance Program (RSAT TTA) through its Fidelity Assessment Initiative (FAI). FAIs are conducted by the RSAT TTA provider, Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), and at no cost to the agency.

The FAI is designed to support RSAT grantees and sub-grantees in their efforts to implement substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs that reflect promising practice and are consistent with the RSAT program's statutory requirements, as well as to opportunities for training and technical assistance. To date (as of January 2024), AHP has completed 107 fidelity assessments in 41 states and territories, including 22 prison systems and 28 county jails.



Fidelity assessments “are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service or ... to meet OJP’s performance measure data reporting requirements...” as described in Office of Justice Programs Application Resource Guide. FAIs are not an audit, and findings are not tied to present or future RSAT funding.

The information sought through the FAI is focused on how programs align with the PPG standards. No personal information on interview participants is sought or collected.

The outcome of the FAI process is a report that scores how closely the RSAT program aligns with the PPGs, identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses (including any areas of non-compliance with the statutory requirements), and provides individualized recommendations for training and technical assistance.

The reports are not considered public documents and are only shared with the officials of the program assessed, the State Administering Agency (SAA), and BJA.



## FAI Process

The FAI process is designed to be minimally disruptive on staff and the regular operations of the facility and the RSAT program being assessed.

**1**

### PLANNING

The FAI team hosts a planning meeting with designated staff from the RSAT program and facility to provide a thorough overview of the process, answer any questions, and begin scheduling interviews. FAI interviews are held virtually and scheduled by the facility to minimize staff interruption. The RSAT Program Manager is asked to complete a pre-interview survey and provide program documents, such as blank treatment plans and participant handbooks, for the Assessor to review.

**2**

### INTERVIEWS

Interviews are scheduled with small groups of staff organized according to their role and designed not to exceed two hours. The RSAT-TTA staff provide a full list of staff positions appropriate for interviews, staff groupings, and interview length. Interviews take place over the course of one week and are held virtually via video or telephone conference.<sup>1</sup>

**3**

### REPORT AND FOLLOW-UP

The results of the FAI is a summary report that provides an overview of the program's operations, reviews its current alignment with each element of the PPGs, and provides individualized recommendations for TTA to bring the RSAT program into alignment with the PPGs and/or to address an area of non-compliance with statutory program requirements. A draft of the report is shared with program and facility leadership for review. The report is then finalized based on feedback and shared with the SAA and BJA.

The FAI team meets with program and facility staff to review findings and discuss implementation of TTA recommendations. The FAI team conducts a six-month follow-up survey to check in on implementation progress and identify any new areas of need.

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<sup>1</sup> All fidelity assessment interviews are currently being completed in a virtual format, but in-person assessment may resume in the future.

## Additional Information

 Detailed information about the RSAT TTA Program can be found at [www.RSAT-TTA.com](http://www.RSAT-TTA.com).

 Questions can be directed to [rsattta@ahpnet.com](mailto:rsattta@ahpnet.com).

