



# Connecticut

---

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION PROGRAM  
Connecticut Department of Corrections

# Continuing Care/Reintegration Program



Connecticut Department of Corrections

FY2024 RSAT funded program

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) funding, through the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management's Criminal Justice Planning and Policy Division (CJPPD), funds Recovery Coaching and Aftercare & Case Management services. The continuing care program is offered to those individuals with a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) and are discharging from Connecticut's prison system. These services are provided through grant sub-award contracts with Wheeler Clinic Inc. and Connecticut Community Recovery, Inc. (CCAR). Wheeler Clinic delivers behavioral health and primary care services in the agency's catchment areas across Connecticut, and links participants to the services they need in their communities.

Upon release from one of four prisons, participants are offered this continuing care aftercare program. RSAT funding supports Wheeler Clinic by providing a Clinical Case Manager and a Peer Recovery Specialist to work with participants, and CCAR two Recovery Coaches to work directly with RSAT program participants. These coaches promote a recovery-based approach by providing peer support that helps offenders adjust to a new sober lifestyle.

Connecticut was first awarded RSAT funds in the 1990s to support addiction treatment programs, starting at the Robinson Correctional Institution. Since then, SUD programs have expanded thanks to funding from the BJA, and other federal agencies, along with state resources, to three additional prisons, including:

- Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution
- Osborn Correctional Institution
- York Correctional Institution (women's prison)

RSAT also supports the Dept. of Correction's Time Out Program (TOP), a short-term SUD program for community supervised offenders who are remanded to the Addiction Services unit's program for violating supervision by using illegal substances and/or presents as at-risk of overdosing.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

The Connecticut Department of Corrections' (CT DOC) addiction services provide a graduated system of SUD treatment programs. Each participant's needs are determined through a formal assessment. Based on those findings, they may receive one of the following "tiers" of treatment:

- **TIER 1:** A nine-session pre-release substance use treatment program focusing on reentry and reintegration issues for individuals returning to the community.
- **TIER 2:** An intensive outpatient program meeting four times a week with a curriculum that helps develop an understanding of addiction.
- **TIER 4:** A residential 6-month program in a modified therapeutic community setting. The TC lays the foundation of recovery and promotes behavioral change through a highly structured and disciplined framework utilizing small and large group interactions to promote and shape pro-social behavior. In collaboration with the Addiction Treatment Unit staff, CCAR Recovery Coaches assist by providing personal assistance, education on community resources, and other recovery supportive services to participants of the program.

Tiers 2 and 4 offer reentry programs designed to provide a continuum of care and maintenance of recovery. To be eligible for the residential program (Tier 4), an individual must be in the state prison a minimum of 6 months and diagnosed with a SUD by a licensed/certified substance abuse counselor, thorough biopsychosocial assessment, and other screening tools. Once an individual enters the program, service and reentry plans are developed based upon information already provided, other assessment details, and additional assessments, as needed.

## MODALITY OF THE PROGRAM

Program participants have very structured days while in prison. They live in separate units with designated program staff, and case managers carry caseloads at the site. Staff use cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and interventions and integrate co-occurring disorder (COD) and trauma-informed treatment. Groups include life skills, self-help, school, work, religious, and peer/mentor meetings, as well as required recreational activities. Participants live together, but they eat and participate in recreational activities with other incarcerated individuals.

### What we can learn from this RSAT program

The ATU has been collaborating with Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) program to provide training in Recovery Coaching to offenders who are incarcerated. This collaboration between both programs has allowed the participants in the Tier 4 Residential Units who continue to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors the ability to work towards becoming a Recovery Coach in their community upon their release.

The Wheeler Clinic ARCH (Addiction Reentry Community Health) Program provides wrap around services that support the offender's recovery and overall well-being. Clinical engagement by Wheeler staff begins prior to discharge date where the program assessment is completed. The ARCH program intake appointment is set up upon discharge to ensure services are initiated in order to assist with this immediate transition period.

All participants enrolled in the department's Time Out Program (TOP) are screened by Wheeler Clinic's ARCH program for services upon discharge. ARCH RSAT funded staff provide case management to all TOP offenders who are willing to receive services in the agency's catchment area.

If an offender does not reside in Wheeler Clinic's catchment area, ARCH staff will make a referral for services to a program within the participant's catchment area. If a participant is already receiving services in the community, ARCH staff will work to continue services with that agency when the participant is discharged. Whenever necessary, ARCH staff work with CT DOC opioid treatment provider (OTPs) to ensure continuum of care.

Additionally, ARCH staff work with the department's division of Parole and Community Services and the division's contracted Community Halfway houses to support supervised participants in the community.

CCAR's Recovery Coaches play a vital role in the reintegration process by helping navigate the participant through obstacles to recovery, linking and introduction to the recovery community, and serving as a personal guide and mentor.

## **MAT PROGRAMMING**

The CT DOC is currently treating between 1,067 individuals daily with medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). They have expanded to offer the full scope of services in 11 of the 13 correctional facilities with methadone, naltrexone, and buprenorphine. MOUD services are supported with both SAMHSA State Opioid Reduction funds and state dollars.

## **CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION**

In partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the DOC Addiction Treatment Unit now has a Linkage to Care Coordinator on staff. This position was created as a resource to answer questions concerning substance use, overdose prevention, and connection to resources surrounding addiction for families of individuals reentering the community from a DOC facility.

Individuals that have been identified to be at risk for potential opioid overdose upon their release, including all participants prescribed MOUD, are offered naloxone at the time of discharge. In addition to those that have been identified as high risk, any individual that is discharging from custody can request a naloxone kit. Training on signs of overdose and how to respond to an overdose emergency is now being provided in all the DOC intake facilities to all newly admitted individuals as part of their orientation.

## CONTINUING CARE PROVIDERS

### Wheeler Clinic Community Health Center

Heather Arduini, LMFT

[HArduini@Wheelerclinic.org](mailto:HArduini@Wheelerclinic.org)

860-782-2476

Outpatient locations in Hartford, Bristol, New Britain, Waterbury, and Plainville, Connecticut, and more than 100 community-based programs cover the entire state.

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Correction Addiction Treatment Unit

Director Sandra Violette

[Sandra.Violette@ct.gov](mailto:Sandra.Violette@ct.gov)

860-692-7584

Carl Robinson Correctional Institution

This I Must Earn (TIME) Program

Counselor Supervisor Erica Rogers

[Erica.Rogers@ct.gov](mailto:Erica.Rogers@ct.gov)

860-253-8283

Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution

The Change Unit

Counselor Supervisor Sherrie Gaudet

[Sherrie.Gaudet@ct.gov](mailto:Sherrie.Gaudet@ct.gov)

860-763-6593

Osborn Correctional Institution

New Horizon

Counselor Supervisor Alicia Samal

[Alicia.Samal@ct.gov](mailto:Alicia.Samal@ct.gov)

860-814-4776

York Correctional Institution

Marilyn Baker Program

Counselor Supervisor Anne Trimachi

[Anne.Trimachi@ct.gov](mailto:Anne.Trimachi@ct.gov)

860-451-3406

*Information updated 6/4/2025*