

Project Director: Barbaros Dinler

Title: Supporting Students in Recovery: Recovering Housing and Support to prevent and reduce substance abuse on college campuses in New Jersey

Funding agency: State of New Jersey, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Abstract: Supporting Students in Recovery has been funded by the State of New Jersey's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and supports services to students in recovery of substance use disorder and students seeking recovery support on campus. The funding allows the Rutgers- Newark Counseling Center to build and expand its support programs and services. The program is acknowledged as a collegiate recovery program (CRP) and includes recovery housing, recovery therapy and community events. The funding will increase opportunities for students in recovery to work with the Center's professional staff as well as trained peer recovery specialists. A significant initiative made possible by the grant is creation of this peer cohort, and funds the recruitment, hiring, and training of peer recovery specialists to support the Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). This peer recovery specialist cohort directly communicating with other students will help mediate the stigma of addiction and encourage open dialogues about the impact of substance abuse on their lives and education. Students in recovery face significant challenges: primarily sustaining their recoveries on a college campus while also managing academic responsibilities. This grant ameliorates barriers to engagement in activities and fosters connections to others in recovery and campus life without sacrificing students' academic success and sustained recoveries.