

Collegiate Recovery Program TA & Consultation Evaluation: 2019 Summary

Introduction

In December 2019, collegiate recovery program (CRP) staff from eight subgrantee universities who received State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funded technical assistance (TA) and consultation from the Rams in Recovery (RIR) CRP at Virginia Commonwealth University were asked to complete a year-end evaluation survey. SurveyMonkey links were sent to subgrantees via email. A total of 12 staff members from the eight universities submitted responses; one response was eliminated due to a high number of missing answers.

CRP Development/Implementation Phase

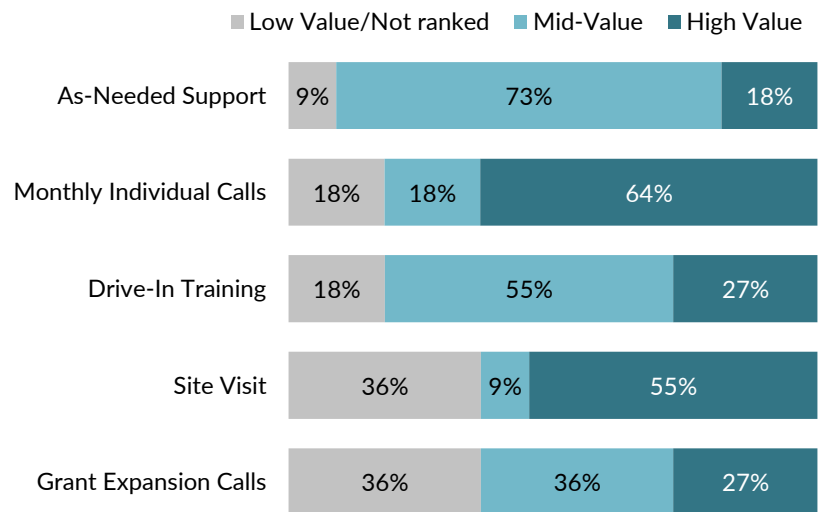
All eight subgrantee universities are represented in the survey results presented in this summary. Two respondents described their university’s CRP as being in an **initial development phase** (e.g., identifying needs, obtaining space and staff); two as in a **planning phase** (e.g., planning programming, initial student contact); three as in an **early implementation phase** (e.g., engagement with students, 1-2 events per semester); and five as in a **consistent implementation and program expansion phase** (e.g., consistent meetings/events, student engagement).

TA Activities

All TA activities were considered moderately or highly valuable by the majority of respondents. Grant expansion calls and site visits had the most significant mix of responses, suggesting these as areas for further inquiry. In addition to the activities listed, respondents found the resources provided via Google Drive and Recovery Ally training particularly valuable.

Universities appeared largely satisfied with the frequency and method (e.g., in person, Zoom, phone) used for TA activities, especially the frequent use of Zoom meetings. Grant expansion calls were identified as potential area for adjustment with approximately half of respondents preferring them on a quarterly basis rather than monthly.

Universities identified spontaneous support on an as-needed basis as most valuable



CRP Drive-In Training

On August 14, 2019, RIR and subgrantee program staff gathered at Longwood University for a day of training and connection. Topics included introductions and sharing from each university, standards and recommendations from the Association of Recovery in Higher Education, program tracking and evaluation, and program development logistics (i.e., sustainability, fundraising, program structure, staffing). Themes from the training evaluation are highlighted below.

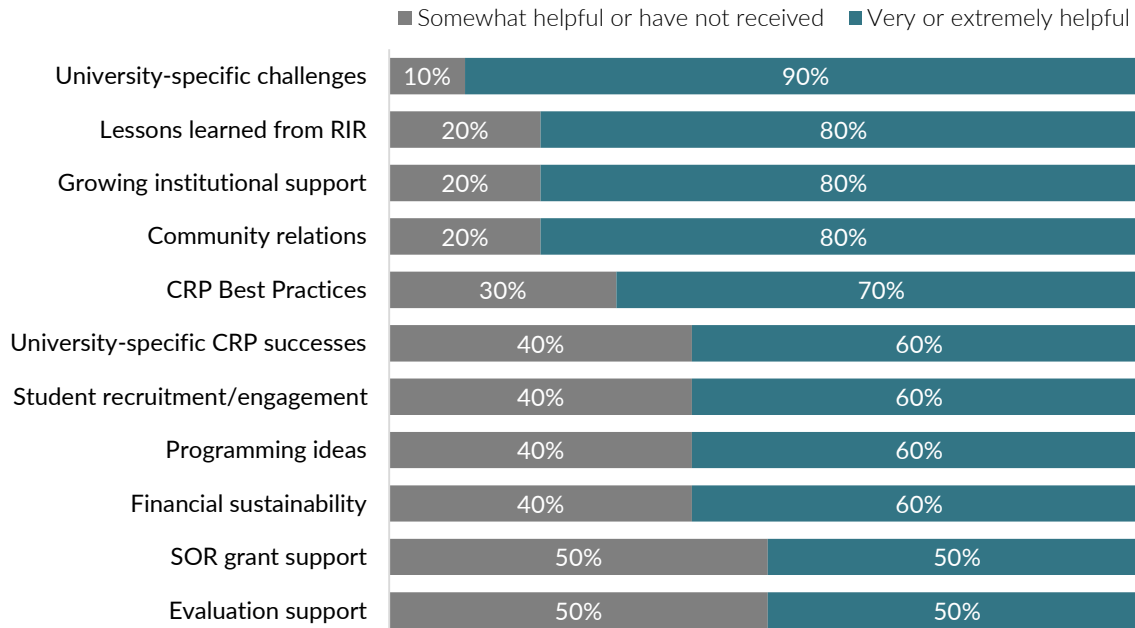
- All 11 respondents reported **benefitting from connecting with staff from the other subgrantee schools**, and many **requested additional time for questions, sharing, and discussion** in future trainings.
- Participants described feeling optimistic about **increased energy and support for their CRP**, potential for growth, and the **prospect of connecting students with recovery support**.
- **78% of respondents identified staffing and time allocation as their primary concern for their CRP**.
- **Supporting students from marginalized communities** and “nontraditional” students was highlighted as an **area for further discussion and support**.

A second Drive-In Training is scheduled for March 4, 2020 at Washington & Lee University.

TA Topics

Overall, respondents reported finding all TA topics somewhat, very, or extremely helpful. No respondents described any of the listed topics as “not at all helpful.”

Subgrantee universities often described TA topics as **very or extremely helpful**



Respondents also noted TA topics that they would like incorporated in the future, including **supporting students of color, meeting structure and facilitation, planning for upcoming academic years, marketing, and university-specific evaluation.**

Impact of TA

All universities reported that their CRP has been positively impacted by the TA that they have received, specifically noting the effectiveness of support related to:

- Capacity building
- Student outreach and engagement best practices
- Development, refinement, and formalization of programming
- Engagement with university administration and community
- Brainstorming and problem-solving
- Relationship, collaboration, and accountability among CRPs, specifically those in early development phases

“We would not be having conversations [without this TA]; so it is everything for us.”

Along with recognizing the extensive impact that TA has had on their CRPs, **respondents emphasized the need for ongoing technical and financial support** in order to sustain and enhance the progress made in the first year of the SOR grant. Finally, the majority of respondents specifically mentioned their positive experience working with Tom Bannard, RIR Program Coordinator, noting their appreciation of his expertise, engagement, and leadership.

“Tom has been fantastic. He is responsive, knowledgeable, and well-connected regionally and nationally to resources.”

For more information about this report, contact Jenna Lee Mathews at jmathews@omni.org. For more information about the RIR program, contact Tom Bannard at bannardtn@vcu.edu.