

Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI)

The mission of SARDI is to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities, including those who are concurrently affected by behavioral health issues. The SARDI Program achieves its objective by conducting collaborative and participatory research; developing intervention approaches and training; and disseminating related information.

SARDI works on two types of grants: direct service grants and evaluation grants. Through our direct service grants, we offer services to our students and community such as HIV and hepatitis C rapid testing, distribution of educational materials, and case management. For our evaluation grants, SARDI works with various local, state and national agencies to evaluate their programs and interventions. This includes data analysis, generating reports, and providing technical assistance to behavioral health providers throughout the state. Below are a few of our current projects:

Direct Service Grants

Day-TREE: The Day-TREE project was developed to address risk factors facing young adults aged 18-24, who may be at greater risk of victimization due to homelessness or marginal housing situations. The participants in the Dayton, Ohio area receive strengths-based case management, transportation assistance, health screening, and treatment referral.

Offender Reentry Program (ORP): SARDI has partnered with the MonDay Community Correctional Institution to provide transitional services for returning citizens with substance abuse problems. Our purpose is to reduce recidivism in Montgomery County, Ohio by expanding current substance abuse treatment and recovery services.

Peer Movement Project (PMP): PMP was created by SARDI as a substance abuse and HIV prevention program targeting African American college students at three local universities, due to the disproportionate burden this population faces regarding HIV infection. PMP offers educational programs, HIV and hepatitis C testing, and access to safe sex information and products. PMP also has a peer support component and utilizes social media to support safe sex practices.

Virtual Office Space (VOS): VOS is a developmental prototype using virtual reality to meet the individualized needs of persons with albinism, targeting those who have visual impairments. This tool is designed to assist individuals with low vision to obtain or maintain employment in lucrative computer and IT occupations.

Evaluation Grants

Ohio Disaster Response Project (ODRP): SARDI has partnered with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and local addiction and mental health boards to evaluate ODRP, which employs services to help families and communities impacted by the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes in the greater Dayton, Ohio area.

State Opioid Response (SOR): Through a partnership with OMHAS, SARDI serves as the evaluation team for the state-wide Ohio SOR project. The purpose of SOR is to build a community system of care that emphasizes service integration between multiple healthcare systems, criminal justice, and child welfare for Ohioans with opioid use disorder or stimulant use disorder. SARDI provides technical assistance, data analysis, and reporting services to assist behavioral service providers in enhancing their services.