

Program Details

The Power of Voice: Leadership Capacity Building Institute For People Who Use Drugs

[Application Link](#)

Program Description:

The NYS Office of Drug User Health (NYS ODUH) invites Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) and Drug User Health Hub clients, participants, and staff to apply for The Power of Voice: Leadership Capacity Building Institute for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD), also known as the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) for PWUD. The fundamental building block of this program is rooted in the Denver Principles' ethic of "nothing about us without us." Thus, it is the meaningful involvement and expertise of people with lived experience (PWLE) that is essential to improving drug user health and enhancing the lives of PWUD throughout New York State.

In this spirit, this six-week hybrid series will train individuals to develop skills in community engagement, leadership, public speaking, storytelling, advocacy, how to influence the development and provision of services, programming, and policy impacting the lives of PWUD.

People with lived or living experience (PWLE) using drugs are strongly encouraged to apply.

Objectives:

By the end of the series, LTI Members will be able to:

- Deliver feedback to help develop and enhance the provision of services aimed at improving the health and lives of PWUD.
- Facilitate listening sessions centering the voices of PWLE on a variety of issues that inform policy and programming for PWUD.
- Provide recommendations about drug user health messaging (e.g., pamphlets, flyers, billboards, education, and training).

Qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Current or former experience using drugs
- Ability to participate in the workshops, coaching sessions, and take-home activities
- Ability to attend a series of program sessions (both in-person and virtual)
 - There are 4 virtual sessions AND an in-person 3-day series overnight in Syracuse
 - Travel/hotel will be paid if costs are not being covered by an agency
- Ability to commit to independent, statewide travel, and overnight stays
- Access to and use of reliable Wi-Fi connection and computer with audio/visual capabilities for virtual participation in the program's activities
- Ability to manage, access, and coordinate medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) during program's scheduled sessions, including travel, as appropriate
- Willingness to learn and develop professionally
- Ability to accept constructive feedback and suggestions
- Ability to share personal information (e.g., security #, legal name, address, etc.) enabling the program to compensate for participation (W-9, etc.)

Travel and Compensation:

- Participants will be paid for their time and travel (unless these costs are covered by a sponsoring SEP, DUHH, or another entity). Each person will receive (1) an overnight hotel stay during each in-person session at The DoubleTree in East Syracuse, NY, (2) reimbursement for transportation to and from the in-person sessions, (3) all meals will be provided during in-person sessions, (4) compensation for their time at \$25/hour (to be paid as a 1099 contractor), and (5) a letter of completion at the end of the program after attending all sessions.

Program Schedule:

- LTI participants should be available to participate in all sessions and to travel for in-person sessions as outlined below.

Session Date	Session Time	Session Format	Session Topic(s)
8/26/2025	1-3:30 PM	Virtual	Introduction to LTI, Leadership Styles & Skills, and Introduction to Personal Boundaries
9/2/2025	1-3:30 PM	Virtual	Community Building, Applying Harm Reduction Principles, and Public Speaking: A Key Part of Leadership
9/9/2025	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	In-Person	Power of Voice from a Trauma Informed Approach: Importance of Story Telling, and Putting into Practice: Storytelling with a Purpose
9/10/2025	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	In-Person	The Observation and Feedback Model, and Applying the Skills: Mock Facilitations and Feedback Leadership
9/11/2025	8:30 AM-1:30 PM	In-Person	Applying the skills: Storytelling for Advocacy, and Recap of Materials Leadership
9/16/2025	1-3:30 PM	Virtual	Self-care, and Final Focus Group Discussion Leadership

Application Deadline: August 1, 2025

Thank you for applying! All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by Friday, August 8, 2025.