

Rapid Response Rhode Island

WHAT?

An Innovative Partnership to Improve Access to Substance Abuse Treatment for All Rhode Islanders.

Rapid Response Rhode Island ensures that individuals receive substance abuse screening within 24 hours of a request for service. Effective immediately, individuals in need of alcohol or drug treatment can dial 2-1-1 and be connected to United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island. Responders will provide callers with contact information directing them to screening services. Individuals will receive an appointment for a substance abuse screening by a trained staff member within 24 hours of the call. Facilities throughout the state will alternate providing screening services, so individuals at times may opt to wait longer than 24 hours in order to be seen at a more convenient location. Following screening, individuals will be referred to the agency best suited to meet their needs and will be assisted in making arrangements for treatment.

WHO?

Participating Agencies:

United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island

Phoenix Houses of New England

Caritas House

CODAC Behavioral Healthcare

Corkery House

DATA (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association) of Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island

Gateway Healthcare/Tri-Hab

The Kent Center for Human and Organizational Development

The Providence Center

Rhode Island Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence

Rhode Island Family Life Center

SSTAR of Rhode Island, Inc.

WHY?

- One in four families nationally are affected by drug and alcohol abuse (*American Journal of Public Health*)
- Each year alcohol and drug problems cost numerous lives and as much as \$300 billion.
- Only 11 percent of the 23.6 million people who need treatment are able to receive it, leaving more than 21 million people nationwide without the treatment they so desperately need.

(*Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*)

- A 2007 report stated that Rhode Island had the highest percentage of illicit drug use in the country, involving 11.2 percent of its citizens, and also found that Rhode Island is one of the worst states in terms of access to drug and alcohol treatment.

(*National Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration*)

