

COMMUNITY RECOVERY CENTERS

Recovery Assistance by Attraction

Community recovery centers can greatly increase the number of alcoholics, addicts and family members who maintain long-term recovery. Community centers are most needed in low-income communities to provide safe, clean and sober environments filled with self-help meetings and other recovery support activities. Community centers can assist any community to increase their self-help meetings and organize recovery support education, assistance, recreation and social activities.

Recovering persons started most of the existing centers many years ago. These are the Alano Clubs, AA Club Houses and Self-Help Meeting Halls that host recovery support meetings and activities. A few remaining government funded California Recovery Centers from the eighties still exist.

Community centers host self-help meetings, recovery education and discussion meetings, career planning and resource training sessions along with recreational and social activities. The role of the center's staff is to recruit, train, encourage and assist the participants to plan, initiate and maintain recovery support meetings and activities. Staff is responsible to keep the centers alcohol and drug free, healthy and safe, and to facilitate a healthy assortment of activities. This gives the center participants a sense of belonging and ownership. Staff is available to assist participants with information, referrals and problem discussions when contacted. Community centers do not provide counseling, therapy or case management. This does not preclude the participants from inviting a counselor or therapist to conduct sessions, as long as the activity is initiated and maintained by the participants.

Centers function as **self-service shopping centers** that are available for recovering participants to shop and select the information, training, education and other support activities or services available.

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