

# Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Training

## **National Training and Technical Assistance Partner for the BJA FY25 Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative**

Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC) is the nation's only nonprofit organization focused exclusively on eliminating barriers to timely and effective treatment for individuals with severe mental illness (SMI). For more than 25 years, TAC has provided research, policy expertise, and specialized training to interrupt cycles of hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, and crisis. Since 2016, TAC has become the nation's leading organization in Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) implementation, conducting 15 statewide AOT trainings across nine states and delivering structured technical assistance to approximately 64 jurisdictions nationwide. TAC has directly trained more than 1,200 professionals and engaged over 160 agencies, courts, and community organizations in AOT implementation efforts.

TAC's AOT Learning Network connects nearly 3,000 members across 47 states and two U.S. territories. Our work produces measurable results: more than 87% of training participants rate TAC's sessions as fully understandable and effective; 100% of surveyed technical assistance clients report satisfaction; and more than 90% confirm their AOT programs are actively enrolling and serving participants following TAC engagement. In Ohio alone, TAC's support contributed to AOT implementation across 30 counties, serving approximately 750 individuals with SMI in a single year.

TAC was also awarded the Maryland Department of Health's Assisted Outpatient Treatment Training and Resource Development Initiative to implement statewide AOT training and infrastructure, including a comprehensive two-day stakeholder training, a secure role-specific training resource library, a public-facing educational portal, and ongoing monthly technical assistance webinars. This award demonstrates TAC's capacity to translate AOT legislation into consistent, person-centered practice across jurisdictions.

## **Alignment with BJA FY25 PSMHI Goals and Objectives**

Our training model aligns directly with Goal 2, Objective 2.3 of the BJA Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative (PSMHI), which prioritizes training law enforcement, courts, and behavioral health providers on civil commitment and AOT laws. TAC delivers state-specific, implementation-focused training that includes:

- AOT eligibility criteria and court procedures.
- Clearly defined stakeholder roles and due process protections.
- Evidence-based treatment practices for SMI and co-occurring disorders.
- Trauma-informed and recovery-oriented approaches.
- Engagement strategies for individuals with anosognosia, including the LEAP method.
- Cross-system coordination protocols and implementation workflows.

TAC's work also supports jurisdictions seeking to strengthen civil commitment and AOT standards in alignment with BJA priority considerations related to public order, treatment compliance, and cross-system accountability.

## **Implementation Model and Measurable Outcomes**

Each TAC engagement incorporates structured implementation planning and measurable benchmarks consistent with federal performance expectations, including pre- and post-training assessments targeting at least a 30% knowledge increase, stakeholder completion rates of 80% or higher, sustained participation in follow-up implementation sessions, and ongoing technical assistance tied to jurisdiction-specific action planning. Research consistently demonstrates that well-implemented AOT programs reduce hospitalization by approximately 70%, decrease criminal justice involvement, and reduce public system costs by up to 50%. However, legislation alone is insufficient without structured training, cross-system collaboration, and ongoing technical assistance — precisely the implementation capacity TAC provides.

For jurisdictions applying under the BJA FY25 Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative, TAC serves as an experienced training and technical assistance partner capable of delivering comprehensive AOT and civil commitment training that fulfills federal grant objectives while building sustainable statewide capacity.

## **Role as a Strategic Training and Technical Assistance Partner**

TAC supports applicants by:

- Designing, developing, and hosting implementation-ready civil commitment and AOT training modules within a secure, user-login Learning Management System (LMS).
- Providing structured technical assistance to courts, law enforcement, and behavioral health agencies.
- Supporting action plan development required for coordinated cross-system service delivery.
- Establishing measurable benchmarks aligned with BJA reporting requirements.
- Building sustainable infrastructure beyond the grant period.

We welcome partnership discussions with state governments, federally recognized tribal governments, and other units of local government seeking to implement or expand AOT in alignment with federal public safety and behavioral health priorities.