COCE technical assistance and cross-training are available to States, cities, counties, tribes and tribal organizations, community-based providers, educational establishments, criminal justice-related entities, and other social and public health providers seeking to enhance their ability to serve individuals with COD. COCE technical assistance request forms, materials, and other resources are available on the COCE Web site at www.coce.samhsa.gov.

The COCE team

COCE is operated by The CDM Group, Inc. (CDM), in collaboration with the National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI), the Center for Behavioral Health, Justice & Public Policy at the University of Maryland (UMD), and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. The COCE team includes a core of subcontractors with specialized expertise in criminal justice, homelessness, and consumer advocacy, and a large and diverse consultant pool. Together, the team of staff, subcontractors, and consultants offers broad and balanced experience in the substance abuse and mental health fields, in working with persons with COD in a variety of service settings, and in the practice of interdisciplinary integration and cross-fertilization.

How to request COCE services

All requests for COCE services must be made in writing. Plans for providing technical assistance must receive Federal approval prior to implementation. Please direct requests to coce@samhsa.hhs.gov, or call 301-951-3369. Technical assistance request forms can be downloaded from the COCE Web site at www.coce.samhsa.gov.

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This brochure was created as an informational product for SAMHSA’s Co-Occurring Center for Excellence (COCE). COCE products are available for free from SAMHSA’s National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), Call 1-800-729-6686 or 1-800-487-4889 TDD (for the hearing impaired), or visit www.csat.samhsa.gov.

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The Co-Occurring Center for Excellence (COCE) is a national resource designed to improve the lives of persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders (COD) and their families by making evidence-based practices available to service providers and service systems. COCE materials and technical assistance are based on state-of-the-art knowledge that is compiled and updated on an ongoing basis. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) are the lead agencies for this initiative.

**COCE mission**
- Receive, generate, and transmit advances in substance abuse and mental health treatment that address substance use and mental disorders at all levels of severity and that can be adapted to the unique needs of each client.
- Guide enhancements in the infrastructure and clinical capacities of the substance abuse and mental health service systems.
- Foster the infusion and adoption of prevention, treatment, and program innovations based on scientific evidence and consensus.

**COCE services and products**
- **Technical assistance and cross-training** to service providers to develop their infrastructure and enhance their clinical capacity to provide effective COD services.
- **State-of-the-art materials on COD** to support and enhance adoption of evidence- and consensus-based practices. Materials include overview papers, technical reports, literature reviews, fact sheets, brochures, monographs, topical program briefs, annual newsletters, and training curricula.
- **The COCE Web site** (www.coce.samhsa.gov), which contains the information resources of COCE on all aspects of COD, highlights innovative programs, and alerts the field to new information, funding opportunities, and relevant meetings. The Web site supports those who seek technical assistance and cross-training, and also serves as a tool for knowledge transfer.

COCE respects the critical role of clients in planning, implementing, and evaluating their services and programs. All COCE products reflect awareness of diverse cultural, social, political, and economic backgrounds and experiences. COCE is committed to a quality improvement process that learns from the field, routinely updates products, and improves its knowledge translation capacity by following technology transfer principles and practices that are responsive to the needs of the field.

COCE accesses and builds on existing resources and information, such as CSAT’s Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 42, *Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders*, and CMHS’s Co-Occurring Disorders: Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment Implementation Resource Kit. COCE also works closely with leaders in the field, through collaborations with national organizations, academic and research centers, SAMHSA’s Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs), and Centers for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPTs).

**Co-occurring disorders**
COD subsumes a complex and varied array of disorders. Clients with COD have one or more mental disorders as well as one or more substance use disorders. Treatment of persons with COD requires an approach that (1) crosses the traditional boundaries between mental health and substance abuse, and includes a wide array of caregivers and agencies (e.g., criminal justice, education, homelessness, and other social/health services agencies); (2) is based on a unified substance abuse and mental health systems approach; (3) acknowledges “no wrong door” for entry into the care system; and (4) addresses early intervention and prevention.

- **National and regional meetings** that focus on state-of-the-art COD best practices and clinical interventions.
- **Pilot evaluation** of the Co-Occurring Measures of Performance (COMPS, formerly known as Performance Partnership Grant [PPG] measures) in State Incentive Grants for Treatment of Persons with Co-Occurring Substance Related and Mental Disorders (COSIG), Data Incentive Grants (DIG), and State Data Infrastructure (SDI) grants.
- **National Steering Council** for expert guidance on the overall approach and services of COCE.