



Heroin Anonymous Responders Program

Getting Started

Get Connected through the Heroin Anonymous Responders Program (H.A.R.P) is designed to help the currently incarcerated addict find a solution to their heroin addiction. H.A.R.P. 's primary purpose is to connect the incarcerated heroin addict to a recovering Heroin Anonymous (H.A.) member within the community who becomes that inmate's H.A. Responder. H.A. Responders are recovered heroin addicts who voluntarily correspond with inmates by sharing the solution of H.A. 's twelve steps as a means to end the suffering of heroin addiction. H.A. Responders are people who are uniquely useful in helping addicts, as they have recovered from a hopeless state of mind and body through a spiritual program of action, known as the twelve steps of H.A. Their experiences in addiction and recovery equip them to help those still suffering from addiction when no one else can. Upon the inmate's release, the H.A. Responder assists in connecting them to a local H.A. group. Formerly incarcerated individuals who attend a meeting upon release are more likely to stay sober than those who do not.

Suggested Steps for Establishing a Local H.A.R.P.

1. Create a H.A.R.P. committee within the local Hospitals & Institutions, or H.A. Corrections Committee and elect an "Outreach Coordinator."
2. The "Outreach Coordinator" is responsible for contacting each state and federal prison to provide information about H.A.R.P. and to obtain contact information for the prison's volunteer/program coordinator.
3. The information collected can be organized in a spreadsheet which includes the following information: prison name, program/volunteer coordinator name, contact phone number and email, and the status of the outreach process. (See example below.)
4. Provide the volunteer/program coordinator with relevant H.A. literature and H.A.R.P. information regarding our program's purpose.

5. We suggest that the “Outreach Coordinator” follows up with the facilities volunteer/program coordinator every few weeks until H.A.R.P. has been established, and afterwards to create a working alliance between H.A. and the prison moving forward.
6. We suggest reaching out to local advocates and professionals to obtain letters of support to use as a letter of reference or referral for the H.A. group in your area.

Here is a letter of reference from a local professional who supports the H.A. Responders Program:

[REDACTED] County
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TREATMENT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

January 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Heroin Anonymous. [REDACTED] Treatment Drug Court Program started in September 2014. At that time, the participants in our program were attending support group meetings through Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. In early 2020, the participants in our program were introduced to Heroin Anonymous when it was brought to our community. We have seen a huge increase in the understanding of the working of the 12 steps since our participants have been involved with this Fellowship. The Heroin Anonymous groups in this area are teaching our participants how to carry the message of the program to others and share the solution they have learned to their problem of addiction. Many of our participants travel to Green Bay on a regular basis to attend meetings of Heroin Anonymous and join with the members in that community. We have allowed participants to attend an HA retreat which is held in Akron Ohio. This has been a powerful experience for our participants in their recovery journey. Our participants are now involved in chairing HA meetings in our local jail. They are also involved in the HA Responders Prison Pen-pal Program. I will say that since the addition of HA to the participants in our Treatment Drug Court, we have seen them become very connected with this Fellowship and it's amazing literature. We are thankful that the HA members are willing to work with our participants and support the Drug Court Team with the work we are trying to do in our community.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Treatment Drug Court Coordinator