WHAT IS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Technical Assistance (TA) is the process of offering advice, non-financial assistance, and training targeted to support consumer-run organizations with identifiable needs or problems. STAR Center, STAR Center National Advisors and other recognized experts in mental health and youth leadership offer support to mental health consumer and family run organizations. TA can take the form of information sharing, one-on-one or group instruction, skills training, transmission of working knowledge, and consulting services and may also involve assistance in new organizational development.

The aim of technical assistance is to maximize the quality of community organizations and their impact by supporting administration, management, policy development, capacity building and more. TA is one of the most effective methods for building the capacity of an organization.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

The STAR Center directly supports mental health consumer and family run organizations in building organizational infrastructure and sustainability in two regions of the United States:

- Region 2 - New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and
- Region 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

For more information on the types of technical assistance being provided to these regions and to see if you are eligible for STAR Center support, visit our website or contact the STAR Center directly.
STAR Center is a consumer-supporter technical assistance center within the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The STAR Center’s focus is on building organizational, business and management capacity of peer leaders and peer-run organizations to increase the availability of peer-directed, recovery-oriented approaches, especially in states and territories where there are very few peer-run organizations and statewide peer networking initiatives.

The STAR Center is dedicated to supporting peers in every arena, and does this through several activities towards developing strong, statewide mental health networks and organizations, supporting and encouraging youth leaders, young adults and other culturally underrepresented communities, and by improving the level of collaboration between diverse stakeholders within mental health systems to encourage transformation at state, regional and national levels.