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## 2025 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE ADDICTION IN LOUISIANA

The Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Service & Prevention Providers (CLASPP), founded in 2006, is a grassroots member-based organization representing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provider agencies and at-risk individuals served across Louisiana. In providing addiction treatment services our state's most vulnerable, CLASPP members provide an annual fiscal impact to the state totaling hundreds of millions of dollars in health care and criminal justice savings, reduced burden on emergency services, and increased workforce productivity.

CLASPP adopts the following 2025 policy recommendations to reduce addiction in Louisiana and improve access, quality, and outcomes in addiction recovery services:

### ⇒ **ESTABLISH AN ONLINE ADDICTION TREATMENT LOCATOR**

An online platform that connects individuals seeking substance use disorder (SUD) treatment with services—particularly one which features bed availability in real time—could significantly benefit Louisiana by increasing access to treatment services, improving care coordination, case management, and recovery outcomes, and reducing burden on emergency services and the criminal justice system as well as associated costs. Numerous states have developed and leveraged such online systems at minimal cost and at substantial benefit.

### ⇒ **EXPAND MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR PEER SUPPORT SERVICES**

Peers—persons with lived experience—play a critical role within a treatment environment by fostering engagement with individuals in treatment, reducing stigma, and building empowering relationships that increase the likelihood of long-term recovery. The involvement of staff who have "been there" can provide individuals in treatment with hope, practical advice, and a sense of belonging that is often unsubstituted. Allowing peer support services to be Medicaid-reimbursable by residential treatment providers would offer support and flexibility for providers, create more effective service delivery systems, significantly enhance the addiction treatment workforce, and improve recovery outcomes overall.

### ⇒ **ROBUSTLY AND RECURRINGLY FUND MEDICAID SUD RATES**

Temporary enhancements to Medicaid SUD rates are set to expire at the end of June 2025, and future funding levels are uncertain without legislative action. As such, a fragmented funding approach to addiction treatment undermines the ability of providers to engage in long-term treatment planning, hire qualified staff, and make necessary investments in their programs and services. Consistent Medicaid funding is needed to enable treatment providers to deliver continuous care, foster long-term recovery, and reduce the overall burden of addiction on the healthcare system, criminal justice system, and economy. Louisiana must prioritize robust, recurring funding for treatment services.