



## **WOMEN'S** *Addiction Services* **LEADERSHIP** *Institute*

The Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI) addresses the urgent need to cultivate emerging leaders in women's services. These emerging leaders will work to ensure that gender-responsive approaches continue and are implemented in our changing behavioral health environment.

WASLI is one of several initiatives supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). Many effective, evidence-based practices, programs, and policies address the specific needs of women and their families and reduce health disparities, but these approaches have yet to be brought to scale and are unavailable to most women. To respond to this need, SAMHSA/CSAT has created the Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI).

### **GOALS**

The goals of WASLI are to strengthen the capacity to meet the prevention, treatment, and recovery needs of women with substance use and mental health problems by:

- Developing and improving the leadership skills of participants.
- Creating a network of the next generation of leaders in women's services.
- Establishing a model of women's leadership training.

### **2015 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OVERVIEW**

SAMHSA/CSAT invites applications from emerging leaders and will select 18 Associates for this year's WASLI. The program, program supplies, materials, and most travel expenses are supported through SAMHSA/CSAT. The program includes the following:

- **INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENTS.** Associates engage in assessments, including a 360-degree leadership inventory, to better understand their styles, actions, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- **FOUR-DAY IMMERSION TRAINING.** The WASLI training is customized to meet the goals of emerging leaders working to address the treatment needs and concerns of women. Topics include: leadership practices, conflict resolution, negotiation, presentation skills, facilitating change, women's leadership strengths, and mitigating women's leadership challenges.

- **COACHING AND ACTION LEARNING.** Associates implement a Leadership Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP) to build and enhance a wide range of interpersonal, communication, and leadership skills. They also complete a Women's Services Leadership Project to expand their reach while meeting an agency need. Associates receive ongoing coaching by a WASLI Coach. WASLI Coaches are selected for their leadership in women's addiction services and their capacity to motivate others.
- **ENHANCEMENT TRAINING.** WASLI offers an ongoing series of leadership teleconferences and webinars and a 3-day, in-person Enhancement Training.
- **GRADUATION AND WASLI ALUMNI NETWORK.** Upon completion of the 6-month program, participation in a Graduation Webinar allows Associates to share their leadership projects and celebrate their accomplishments. Coaches and alumni can participate in the WASLI Alumni Network, which is a loosely knit association of leaders and emerging leaders in women's behavioral health.

### **SUPPORT**

SAMHSA/CSAT is the primary convener and guiding force for WASLI and contracts with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. for the development and implementation of the WASLI program.