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BE "PROUD"

Paula Crane Award
for Excellence
in Treatment

Come Join Us

2025

OTPG Conference
Emory Conference
Center Hotel,
1615 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

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2025 Conference Issue

real help = real hope

OTPG QUARTERLY OCT. 19, 2025

What You Do Matters

Greetings Providers, A Patient's Testimony!



Recovery is not a straight line. For someone like me, who has struggled with opioid addiction, every day can feel like a balancing act between stability and relapse. Methadone treatment is what keeps me steady, and without it, I know I would be at high risk of falling back into old patterns. The grant I receive to help cover the costs of my methadone treatment has been one of the most important supports in my recovery. It is not just financial assistance—it is the reason I can keep building a life away from opioids. When I first began this journey, one of my

biggest fears was not only whether the treatment would work, but whether I could afford to stay on it long enough to see the benefits. Addiction takes everything—money, energy, relationships, and time. I entered treatment with very little left. Methadone gave me a foundation, but the grant made it possible to actually stay with the program. Without that safety net, the stress of figuring out how to pay for treatment could have pushed me right back into the cycle I was trying so hard to escape.

The truth is, methadone is more than just a medication to me. It represents stability. It helps balance my body so that I'm not constantly sick or craving drugs. Before methadone, my days revolved around trying to get well. I would wake up every morning already anxious and desperate, wondering how I would get through the day without being in withdrawal. Every decision I made was tied to finding the next high. That life is exhausting and dangerous. With methadone, I don't wake up sick anymore. I don't spend every minute of the day chasing opioids. I can think about real goals and responsibilities.

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The grant plays a huge role in that stability. It takes away the financial barrier that could stand between me and my treatment. Instead of panicking about whether I can afford my next dose, I can focus on making progress. That peace of mind is powerful. It gives me the ability to go to my clinic appointments consistently, stay accountable to my program, and avoid slipping back into old habits. It is one less burden on my shoulders, and in recovery, every bit of relief matters. Having access to methadone through this grant has also had a positive effect on my relationships. Addiction strained or destroyed many of the connections in my life, but now I have a chance to rebuild. I can be present with my family in a way I couldn't before. I can show up for the people who matter to me instead of letting my addiction control me. Every time I walk into the clinic and take my dose, I'm choosing to be a better version of myself. That choice is possible because the grant keeps treatment within reach. I also think about my future differently now. Addiction made me feel like I didn't have one—that I was stuck in a cycle I couldn't break. But with methadone and the support of the grant, I see opportunities ahead of me. I want to work, to set goals, to live a life where I'm not defined by my past mistakes. Every day I stay in treatment is a step closer to that future. The grant gives me the breathing room to focus on building that life instead of just surviving.

Of course, recovery is not easy. There are still days when I struggle, when old thoughts or temptations creep in. But methadone helps me manage those moments, and the grant makes sure that help is always available. I know that without these supports, it would be so much harder to stay clean. It only takes one slip, one moment of weakness, to undo so much progress. That's why consistent access to treatment is so important, and why I am so grateful for the grant that makes it possible.

To me, this grant is more than financial help—it is hope.

It is an investment in my recovery, my health, and my future. It allows me to continue receiving the treatment that keeps me from falling back into a life of addiction. And most of all, it gives me the chance to keep moving forward, one day at a time.



**Thank You,
What You Do
Matters**



Letter from CARELINK of Georgia: Expanding Hope and Healing Across Our Communities

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At CARELINK of Georgia, our mission is simple yet vital: to bring compassionate, comprehensive care to individuals and families affected by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). As a nonprofit organization led by a dedicated and experienced Board of Directors, we are proud to serve as a cornerstone of support, healing, and advocacy across the state.

Every day, we witness the profound impact of opioid addiction—and the even greater potential for recovery when people are met with dignity, resources, and a path forward. That's why CARELINK is deeply committed to expanding access to evidence-based care and ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against the Opioid Crisis.

Our Services: Meeting People Where They Are

We recognize that recovery is not one-size-fits-all. CARELINK offers a wide range of programs tailored to the diverse needs of OUD patients:

- **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) for indigent and incarcerated individuals**
- **Transportation services to remove barriers to care**
- **Comprehensive medical care designed specifically for OUD patients**
- **Harm reduction initiatives that prioritize safety and wellness**
- **Workforce development to train and support future MOUD providers**
- **Legal support for those navigating the justice system**
- **Technical assistance for healthcare providers seeking to enhance OUD services**
- **Prevention programs aimed at protecting vulnerable populations**
- **Stakeholder education to promote evidence-based practices and public awareness**



Investing in Communities

In addition to our direct services, CARELINK has proudly awarded grants to clinics across Georgia, ensuring that more communities have the tools and resources needed to combat the opioid epidemic. Our collaborations with local partners are helping to build a stronger, more resilient care network for all. Together, we are making strides. Together, we are saving lives. We invite you to join us—whether as a partner, advocate, or supporter—in creating a future where recovery is possible, care is accessible, and hope is never out of reach.

**With Gratitude,
The CARELINK of Georgia Team**



CARELINK OF GEORGIA

BE “PROUD”



Obtaining the reputable credential from PROUD represents a level of professional achievement and a demonstrated knowledge of core professional competencies and practice standards. Most importantly, achieving a credential from

PROUD demonstrates proficiency as a certified opioid use disorder professional.

The PROUD certification reflects a deep personal commitment and sense of accountability that inspires credibility and confidence in professional knowledge. It also reflects the dedication to high standards of care in the treatment and/or recovery support of individuals with medication for opioid use disorders.

We are PROUD that you are starting your journey to becoming a Practitioner for the Recovery of Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD).



Joelyn Alfred–OTPG Conference Chair received the Paula Crane Award for Excellence in Treatment. It was given at the Georgia School for Addiction Studies (GSAS).

Come Join Us! become an OTPG member

The annual membership dues are listed below and are based on the current patient census of your facility.

- 0-149 patients: \$250
- 150-299 patients: \$500
- 300-499 patients: \$1,000
- 500+ patients: \$1,500

Please visit our web site for more information on membership.



Get to know the OTPG board members visit www.otpggeorgia.org

The benefits available to members of OTPG:

- Four free one CEC trainings
- Access to free hotline maintained by Jackson-Lewis PC, labor and employment law specialists
- Membership with the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
- Discounted education opportunities
- Affiliation with community organizations
- Updated state and federal information to include statistics, changes to regulations, available funds, etc.
- Chance to network within our industry
- Ability to purchase discounted copies of "Exploring the World of Opioid Addiction"