

Community Advocates

Community Advocates is a program of the Mental Health Association in New Jersey that provides support, advocacy, and education to adults with mental illness.

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey strives for mental health for children and adults through advocacy, training, education and services.



**Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.**



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88 Pompton Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044
Phone: 973-571-4100 Fax: 973-857-1777
www.mhanj.org e-mail: info@mhanj.org

Community Advocates is funded by a contract with the NJ Division of Mental Health Services and by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc.

Statewide Office:

State Office:
973-571-4100

Atlantic County:
609-272-1700

Hudson County:
201-653-4700

Ocean County:
732-905-1132

Passaic County:
973-478-4444

Union County:
908-497-1921

You may also contact any of our offices via our website, www.mhanj.org.



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**Community
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Direct Individual Advocacy

Short term, intensive support to consumers with the goal of successfully linking them to existing mental health, medical, housing, employment, and self-help programs in the community. Once linkages are complete, ongoing follow-up contact is made to insure continued participation in services.

Peer Outreach Support Teams [POST]

Consumer providers work together to provide outreach services to their peers who need assistance. POST workers provide the same services as other Community Advocates workers, but also serve as role models to other consumers in recovery from mental illness.

Community Based Support, Education and Advocacy Groups

A wide variety of groups are offered in the community to meet the specific needs of mental health consumers. Examples of group topics include wellness, employment, addiction, and recreational and social groups. Community Advocates staff will work with consumers to develop groups that fit their needs. Groups can take place at various sites in the community, including churches, self-help centers, community centers, boarding homes, and other facilities.

Outreach to Multicultural Groups

Community Advocates targets outreach activities to minority populations to educate them about mental health issues and the mental health system.

Community Advocates services are provided by staff, volunteers, and consumers working with their peers. All volunteers receive ongoing training, supervision, and support from professional staff.

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Community Advocates services are available to adults who have a mental illness. Individuals can refer themselves, or referrals can be made by family members, mental health service providers, or other human service organizations. Services are provided free of charge, but may be limited based on the resources of the program.

Community Advocates needs the support of the community. We always welcome volunteers to serve as advocates and group leaders, and to provide support to consumers.

Community Advocates offers volunteer opportunities, demonstrating that there are many ways to make a difference!

Community Advocates operates in Atlantic, Hudson, Ocean, Union, and Passaic Counties, with program oversight from MHANJ's State Office in Verona, Essex County. Not all services are available at all locations, so contact your local office to check.

About the Mental Health Association in New Jersey

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey [MHANJ] is a statewide, grass roots organization providing advocacy, education, training, and support to consumers and their families. MHANJ's vision is a community in which people with mental illnesses can achieve their full potential, free from stigma and other barriers to care and recovery.

Since 1949, MHANJ has been the leading mental health advocacy organization in the state. As a non-profit organization, MHANJ needs your support to continue to succeed in the battle against mental illness. Donations are always accepted to fund social and educational activities for consumers and to support advocacy efforts. If you can help, please contact our State Office.

Community Advocates services are available to adults who have a mental illness.



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