

FACT SHEET: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SERVICE CENTERS (CASCS)



Brief Description of Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC)

The Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC) system is composed of eight lead contracted community-based organizations located throughout the County's eight Service Planning Areas (SPA). There are currently 19 Service Center sites located throughout Los Angeles County.

Each of the service centers acts as the entry point for any County citizens seeking alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery services. The CASC work closely with a network of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control contracted alcohol and other drug treatment agencies, mental health providers, domestic violence agencies, and other community-based organizations providing information and referrals on a wide variety of supportive services. Ancillary service referrals may include: literacy training, temporary housing, referrals to food banks, health care clinics, mental health, and other needed services.

The CASCS currently provide services to the public, along with categorically funded clients such as General Relief and CalWORKs recipients for the Department of Public Social Services, the Department of Family and Children Services, and to criminal justice clients funded through the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Offender Treatment Program/Proposition 36). The CASC only refer to County contracted treatment agencies.

CASC Services

Each CASC site provides :

- Screening, clinical assessment, and referral services for the general public and persons referred to treatment by various programs or agencies.
- Receiving and managing calls from the Los Angeles County 1-800 toll-free alcohol and other drug referral line (1-800-564-6600).
- Initial screening, both in-person and by phone.
- Face-to-face comprehensive clinical alcohol and other drug assessments, employing a computerized/automated assessment instrument utilizing the Addiction Severity Index.
- Assessing participant's eligibility for specifically funded County contracted alcohol and other drug programs.
- Ancillary service referrals which include, but are not limited to, vocational rehabilitation, education, transportation, other public social services, housing, health, legal, and mental health services.

- An HIV/AIDS Specialist on site who interfaces with persons needing specialized services and assists in providing the bridge to treatment for needle exchange participants.
- The provision of limited medical screenings for infectious disease, at some sites.
- The coordination and scheduling of on site provider orientations to participants at DPSS GAIN Regional Offices, located within the CASC SPA.

The CASC Assessors are experienced in:

- Providing support and discussion on lapse/relapse triggers for participants who may have a history of substance abuse.
- Providing participants with information and advocacy regarding other services which may include, but are not limited to, childcare, food banks, shelters, and transportation.
- Pretreatment counseling that includes providing information on the importance of keeping all scheduled appointments and working to dispel any fears, myths and misconceptions regarding treatment.

Additionally, the CASCs provide:

- Information based upon resource directories including, but not limited to, all mental health, domestic violence services, Alcoholic Anonymous and other self-help groups, alcohol and other drug treatment providers in Los Angeles County, 211 Info Line service agencies, and HIV/AIDS service providers.
- The scheduling and coordination of regular meetings with alcohol and other drug agencies, mental health programs, and other human service agencies located within the SPA geographical area of responsibility.
- The maintenance of collaborative and cooperative linkages with public, private, social, economic, health care, legal, vocational, and mental health service providers.
- A HIV/AIDS Specialist on site who interfaces with persons needing specialized services and assists in providing the bridge to treatment for needle exchange participants.