

LUNCH MARCH 22nd



Shakopee Police Department
Recovery Assistance Program
"Scholarships for Treatment"

The Shakopee Police Department's Recovery Assistance Program (RAP) was launched with two major goals: first, to provide financial assistance to people seeking drug/alcohol treatment via a \$3,000 scholarship toward the cost of treatment; second, to build a supportive relationship between officers and people completing drug/alcohol treatment.

The Recovery Assistance Program was launched with two major goals: first, to provide financial assistance to people seeking drug/alcohol treatment via a \$3,000 scholarship toward the cost of treatment; second, to build a relationship and additional support network for RAP participants.

The Shakopee Police Department understands that the financial burden is often one of the biggest hurdles when seeking drug/alcohol treatment. We also know it is not the only obstacle. For the program to succeed, it is imperative participants know that the Police Department is available to help them with their recovery goals. Once the applicant is accepted into the program, he or she receives a generic acceptance letter, as well as a custom welcome note from the Chief of Police. This custom note is crucial to setting the tone that we are a partner in his/her recovery process. In some situations, the scholarship recipient can choose to develop a connection with a Shakopee police officer to provide an additional person who supports them in their sobriety.

To become a participant in the Recovery Assistance Program an individual must be a Shakopee resident seeking treatment at one of five RAP partner treatment centers. Participants who meet these criteria, fill out a scholarship application (attached), usually with the assistance of the treatment provider who is providing the treatment. The scholarship application includes basic application information, drug of choice and statement of need. Participants must also agree to complete a 30-day check-in form. After an application is received, the applicant is screened against the Shakopee in-house records. As can be expected, many applicants have had previous contact with the Shakopee Police Department. This screening is not for the purpose of disqualifying applicants. Rather it provides an opportunity for program administrators to speak with officers who may have had previous contact with the applicant to ensure the officers feel comfortable with the decision to accept the applicant.

Once the applicant is admitted into the program, he or she must complete at least 30 days of treatment before becoming eligible for the scholarship. After the initial 30 days are completed, the treatment center sends the police department the participant's bill (minus insurance contributions) and the police department pays up to \$3,000 of the bill. The funds used for the scholarships are from asset forfeiture funds; no tax dollars are used toward the program.

Shakopee Police Department's Recovery Assistance Program is an innovative, first-of-its kind, program. It achieves the 21st Century Policing pillar of "Community Policing and Crime Reduction." RAP is easily replicable and provides an alternative to "arresting your way out of the problem" which is undeniably not working in the case of drug and alcohol addiction. RAP is positively perceived throughout the recovery community. RAP is one of the most positive programs the Shakopee Police Department has had among the media and the community.

A application form is attached, as is the "30 day check in form" that applicants complete. If you have any questions about this program or about treatment programs that partner with RAP please contact:

Chief Jeff Tate
or Barb Hedstrom
Shakopee Police Department
Crime Victim and Community Coordinator
952-233-9400