



2019–2021

IMPACT REPORT



Individualized Support for Individualized Recovery

“ATR helped me get clothes and get around the city. I had never written a resume before. I learned how to use computers and how to be a professional and citizen again. I have a whole new life thanks to this program.”

—ATR Participant

ACCESS TO RECOVERY

Massachusetts Access to Recovery (ATR) is an innovative program that provides access to community services and resources for people with substance use disorders (SUDs) who are seeking to change their lives. Based in five service areas - Boston, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield/Holyoke, and Worcester—ATR connects participants to wraparound support tailored to their individual needs and goals, empowering them to remain in recovery.

This 6-month program provides support with basic needs, housing assistance, recovery coaching, and job training and connects participants with an ATR Care Coordinator. ATR Care Coordinators work one-on-one with each participant to create a recovery path and support them through each step forward.

There are multiple pathways to recovery, and ATR helps participants create the one that will help them sustain long-term recovery.

After completing ATR, on average, **85%** of participants have reported they are happy with their lives, energized to complete tasks, proud of their community, supported by friends, both challenged and fulfilled without the use of drugs, and making good progress in their recovery journey.



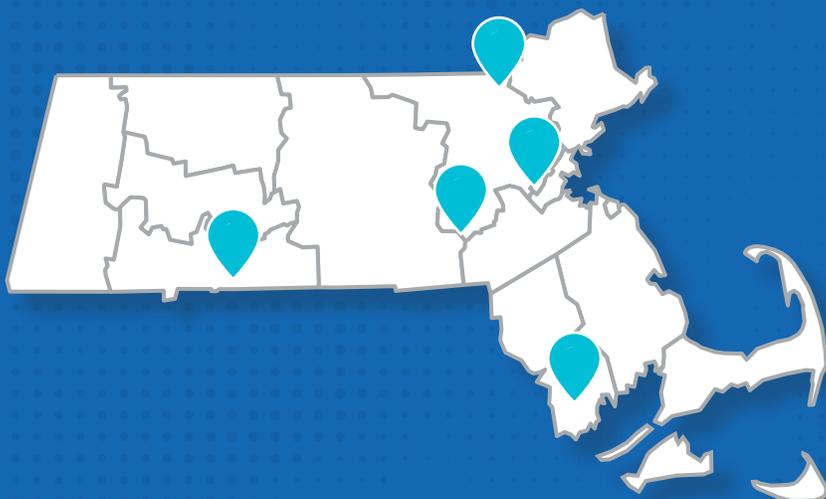
In the last 3 years, 9,712 people took recovery into their own hands by enrolling in the ATR program. ATR participants have reported positive changes after using ATR services, including:

32% increase in employment

30% increase in income earned from wages

20% increase in stable housing

19% decrease in income earned from public assistance



The ATR program has served more than 27,000 participants in their recovery since 2010.

Boston
Lowell
New Bedford
Springfield/Holyoke
Worcester

MA-ATR.org

ATR CAREER SERVICES



Work is one of the best predictors of positive outcomes for people in recovery. ATR partners with 26 organizations, offering more than **45 unique job training programs** across the 5 service areas we serve. In the last 3 years, we have brought in 13 new job training programs, ranging from carpentry, HVAC/refrigeration, manufacturing, and CDL truck driving to computer tech, customer service, office support, and accounting. We specifically partner with providers who tailor their programs for those with substance use disorders and train in fields that are more receptive to hiring people with a criminal justice system history.



MEET TIM

Former ATR participant Tim began using drugs in his early teen years, which led to his addiction and involvement in the criminal justice system. After serving time in prison, Tim sought out resources to help him with his recovery and find a job. He enrolled in ATR, where he received a transportation pass, clothing, and job training through ATR provider Community Works Services (CWS). Tim now serves as Program Coordinator for the CWS Commercial Cleaning program. He continues to share the story of his past and how ATR supported him along his journey forward to inspire others.

You can see Tim's full story at ma-atr.org/about-atr.

“ ATR was a huge part of saving my life.” —Tim M.

Thank you to our service providers for their incredible work.

Amaral Truck Driving School
American Academy of Personal Training
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Bristol Community College Building Pathways
Choice Recovery Coaching, Inc.
Community Servings, Inc.
Community Teamwork

Community Work Services
Family Continuity
Gavin Foundation
Holyoke Community College
Home Builders Institute
Institute for Health and Recovery
Lowell House Recovery Cafe
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
MassHire Central Career Center

MassHire Greater New Bedford Career Center
MassHire Holyoke Career Center
MassHire JVS Downtown Boston Career Center
MassHire Lowell Career Center
Middlesex Community College
New England Center for Arts and Technology
New England Institute of HVAC

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Project Place
Providence Ministries for the Needy
Quinsigamond Community College
St. Francis House
United Tractor Trailer School, Inc.
Volunteers of America C-Tech Program
Worcester Jobs Fund
YMCA Training, Inc.

ATR SOBER HOME SERVICES

In an effort to provide wraparound support to ATR participants, the Massachusetts state legislature granted additional funds to the program's annual budget to support the launch of our housing assistance program for participants experiencing housing instability. Participants work directly with an ATR Housing Coordinator, who helps them find an appropriate Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH) Certified Sober Home. Once the participant is placed, ATR provides up to 5 months of rental assistance. In addition to financial support, participants receive continued support from a Recovery Coach throughout their time in sober living to help them through various challenges and plan for permanent housing once they are ready to leave the sober home.

\$1 MILLION

We have supported ATR participants with more than \$1 million in rental assistance in the first 2 years of offering this service.

50+ MASH Certified Sober Homes

More than 50 MASH Certified Sober Homes have participated in this opportunity through ATR.



265 PARTICIPANTS

ATR added Sober Home Services to our available supports in March 2020, and through 2021, 265 participants have used this service.

In a recent evaluation of ATR Sober Home Services, participants demonstrated statistically significant improvement between baseline and 6-month follow-up in areas including:

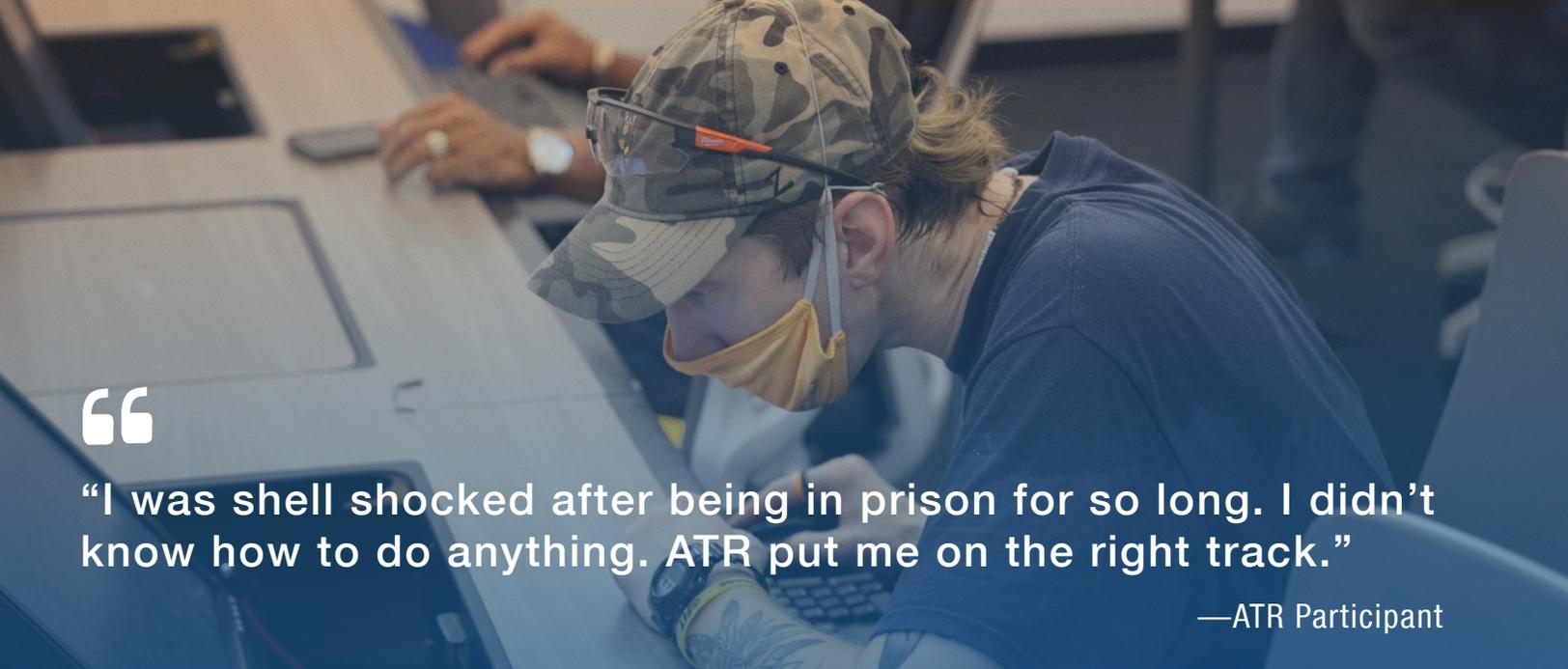
- Increased housing stability
- Increased employment
- Increased average monthly income
- Decreased use of public assistance
- Improved perception of overall quality of life, energy for everyday life, and resources adequate to meet needs
- Improved mental health status
- Increased interactions with family and friends supportive of recovery

It was also found that enrollment in these services led to significant improvements when compared to participation in ATR alone.

43% were more likely to be stably housed

31% were more likely to be employed or enrolled in a school or job training program

18% were more likely to report no depression



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“I was shell shocked after being in prison for so long. I didn’t know how to do anything. ATR put me on the right track.”

—ATR Participant

The mission of the ATR program is to connect people with SUDs to a variety of support services that will help them on their recovery path.

Through a participant-driven approach, we provide people with the opportunity to choose the services that will best serve their recovery, empowering them to remain in recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the ATR team to adapt so that ATR participants had access to the services that supported their recovery. These changes have informed the future of the ATR program, as the need for virtual opportunities has increased.



TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

ATR provided access to technology assistance and equipment such as laptops, WiFi hotspots, and headphones to nearly **1,000 participants**, enabling them to safely continue their job training virtually.



CAREER SERVICES

ATR continued connecting participants to valuable job training opportunities to build marketable skills that supported their employment search. Through hybrid or entirely virtual opportunities, **88%** of ATR participants completed their training programs.



WORKING RECOVERY

A Symposium

WORKING RECOVERY: Why Employment is Pivotal to Sustained Addiction Recovery

In September 2021, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) and ATR program staff hosted its first national virtual symposium: **WORKING RECOVERY: Why Employment is Pivotal to Sustained Addiction Recovery**. More than 1,700 guests from the substance use system of care, government entities, the workforce development field, and other organizations from around the country joined the event to expand their knowledge about the importance of employment in an individual's recovery path.

In an effort to inform and inspire those working with people in recovery, the **WORKING RECOVERY** symposium emphasized the use of employment as a key tool to sustaining long-term recovery. Many working-age adults with substance use disorders face systemic barriers that block their access to steady employment. We were grateful to have 13 speakers share their passion for this subject, as well as their expertise, so that we could learn and work together to better support those in recovery.



Martin J. Walsh
Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor

Keynote speaker Secretary Walsh encouraged attendees to come together to support the recovery community, initiate practices to create a more inclusive workforce, and continue fighting the stigma of substance use disorders.

Drs. David Eddie and David Best kicked off the symposium with **Answering the Why: What Does the Research Say About the Importance of Employment to Recovery?**

David Eddie, Ph.D.
**Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital,
Harvard Medical School**

Dr. Eddie emphasized employment as a critical building block in an individual's sustained addiction recovery and addressed how employment improves quality of life and recovery capital.

David Best, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Derby, England

Dr. Best shared with attendees that these five variables enable recovery change: Connectedness, Hope, Identity, Meaning, and Empowerment (CHIME).

Thank You!

Thank you to our coordination agencies, the Gavin Foundation and Institute for Health and Recovery; as well as our ATR Coordinators, Ashley, Chris, Doug, Eric, Jackie, Jenny, Karen, Liz, Meghan, Mikaela, Patricia, and Stephen; our Sober Home Housing Coordinators, Datsy and Ruth; and our Sober Home Recovery Coaches, Adam, Alex, Dianne, Gail, Larry, Lindsay, and Ryan for supporting ATR participants and helping them reach their goals in recovery. You are a vital part of this service, and we are thankful for your dedication and effort!



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“I had no skills for work. I went to ATR, you take these classes and they teach you about the trades, then you get to choose which trades you want to get into. ATR helped me get my license and I got in the union. I’m here today because of that.”

—Miguel, ATR Participant

For more information, please contact us at ATR@ahpnet.com.

