



MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

MHTTC Network Recovery-Oriented Language Statement

The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network uses affirming, respectful and recovery-oriented language in all activities. Person-first language inspires hope and uplifts people in recovery by recognizing their essential person-hood. Strengths-based and inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities.

We recognize that language is dynamic and evolving, and our guidelines will be updated to reflect that. We are committed to identifying problematic language, promoting equitable language, and maintaining accountability in what we say and how we say it. Our written products will be written in a style and language that is appropriate for, and responsive to, the intended audience. We will avoid language and images that promote or reinforce bias and stereotypes. For example, we might use language like:

- “Partner” instead of husband/wife
- “Caregiver” instead of parents
- “People who identify as Latinx” instead of “the Latinos”
- “People who lack documents required for legal immigration” instead of “undocumented” people or “illegal” workers
- “Person with lived experience of mental illness” instead of “mentally ill”

These guidelines are based on the fundamental principles of facilitating and respecting the dignity and contributions of all people, advocating for the value of individuals’ rights and freedoms, and promoting recovery-oriented, anti-racist and anti-discriminatory frameworks in all aspects of our work.

For a compilation of products and resources on cultural responsiveness, racial equity, and cultural diversity, please visit the [MHTTC Racial Equity & Cultural Diversity Resource Page](#).

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A special thank you to the MHTTC Cultural Responsiveness Working Group for curating this statement.