

ATOP

Access Transformative Outreach Program

What is ATOP?

- It is an intensive community-based intervention specific for those with severe substance use disorders.
- This program is operated in partnership between Colorado Access and Denver Health.
- It addresses significant health risks that come from chronic and severe substance use disorder.

Who is ATOP designed for?

- ATOP is meant for individuals with severe substance use disorders. It is designed to help Colorado Access members who have been to withdrawal management (detox) or the emergency department more than 18 times in the past six months. Some of the program participants may be:
 - Experiencing homelessness.
 - Experiencing significant medical or mental health conditions.
 - Distrustful of the service systems.
 - Without enough family or social support.

What principals does ATOP use?

ATOP uses the following principles:

- There is a multidisciplinary team with expertise in:
 - Physical and mental health care.
 - Addiction treatment.
 - Housing.
 - And employment.
- Services are community-based. Individuals participate on their own schedule rather than in scheduled office appointments.
- Services are intensive with a minimum of three contacts per week.
- Caseloads are small. A case manager works with no more than 15 people.
- Barriers to care are minimal. Individuals are not discharged because of the symptoms of their illness, such as continued use or agitated behavior.
- Staff use motivational interviewing, harm-reduction and verbal de-escalation to create an environment where individuals choose to participate in care.
- Services are designed with sensitivity to the individual's experiences of trauma.
- Service plans are tailored to the culture and background of the individual.

ATOP helps a population that experiences **high rates of homelessness, health complications, and emergency health care use.**

It fills a need, and is one of a kind in Colorado. There are no similar programs with this level of intensive community-based treatment for this population in our state.