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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Promise Resource Network Awarded SAMHSA Grant to Launch Statewide Peer Run (“Consumer” Operated) Organization and Technical Assistance Center**

**CHARLOTTE, NC (April 1, 2019)**—NC based Promise Resource Network, Inc. (PRN) is honored to be the recipient of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) 3-year grant award to launch Peer V.O.I.C.E. NC. PRN will utilize a grassroots organizing approach to incubate the independent statewide peer (“consumer” operated) organization, as well as a peer and recovery Technical Assistance Center (TAC).

Cherene Allen-Caraco, CEO of PRN, stated “PRN is excited to take the lead on establishing a sustainable statewide peer organization and TAC that will be at the forefront of the peer and recovery movement in North Carolina. Through this grant, SAMHSA is ensuring that people directly impacted by mental health challenges are catalysts for transforming mental health and related systems, policies and practices.” She also added, “This coalition will establish a strong, coordinated presence and influence of people that have overcome significant life experiences, capitalizing on their wisdom, to inform how services and systems can be re-designed to facilitate recovery, resilience and healing rather than perpetuate illness, dependence and marginalization.” The aim of the grant is to (1) build consumer-run organizations across the state, (2) coordinate efforts to enhance qualified and competent peer professionals and providers of peer support services, and (3) advance the awareness and use of mental health recovery-oriented services, resources, and supports.

PRN’s Director of Human Resources, Bunnie Holston added, “In addition to improved networking, career and advocacy opportunities, being a member of a professional organization carries a degree of respectability that helps professionals establish legitimacy and leverage their collective power.”

**About Promise Resource Network, Inc.** Promise Resource Network (PRN) is a NC peer-operated 501(c)(3), established in 2006 to offer alternative, trauma-informed supports and resources that enhance resilience, recovery and wellness. PRN’s Recovery Hub in Charlotte is free, open to the community and steered by the Eight Dimensions of Wellness. The agency is operated and staffed by people with lived recovery experience and embraces a community collaboration of peer workers, providers, advocates, and funders, working to transform the local behavioral health service delivery system. This recovery-oriented system of care was developed to eliminate the dependency and low expectations that are perpetuated by illness-based mental health and substance use systems, to effectively make recovery a reality. PRN was ranked the 2018 best small non-profit in the country!

For additional information, contact Cherene Allen-Caraco at [ccaraco@promiseresourcenetwork.org](mailto:ccaraco@promiseresourcenetwork.org)

To get involved and learn more, visit [f /Peer VOICE NC/](https://www.facebook.com/PeerVOICENC/)

**PRN Vision:** *“Through the wisdom of the lived recovery experience, PRN ignites social change, inspires hope and serves as a catalyst for personal greatness.”*