

## AVIVO

**Program Type:** Substance Use Disorder / Mental Health Treatment & Vocational Rehabilitation Program

**Agency & Location:** Avivo, which began in Minneapolis, Minnesota but now also has 9 other locations in Minnesota

**Population Served:** Avivo Vice President Boyd Brown provided the following information about the population served by the company. Avivo provides chemical and mental health treatment to 6,000 people annually with 60 percent being persons of color. Additionally 94 percent of individuals who receive services from Avivo live at or below the federal poverty level with many having a history of homelessness. The majority of Avivo treatment participants meet criteria for severe substance use disorder, with almost all having had at least one previous treatment episode and many having had more than four treatments. Approximately 85 percent of Avivo participants have a co-occurring mental health disorder in addition to their substance use disorder, and approximately 70 percent have a history of criminal justice involvement.

**Program Description:** Individuals at Avivo receive holistic treatment that is culturally competent, family-centric, and helps people increase well-being through recovery, employment, and career advancement. Avivo's team of professionals pulls together the right tools for employment success including the opportunity to enroll in its career and technical school, vocational assessments, employment services, workshops on resume writing and mock interviews, job search skills, placement services, and job retention supports by helping to manage expectations. Avivo works with each person individually and directly to pair employment services with chemical dependency treatment and mental health services. Avivo alumni also have access to the organization's job portal that shows current area employment opportunities.

**Results:** According to Brown, over 80 percent of alumni of Avivo's treatment programs are now gainfully employed. In 2017, 52 individuals from Avivo treatment programs achieved 57 industry recognized credentials and were placed into industry jobs upon graduation from training.

**Program Perspective:** Wellness is the active pursuit of good healthy living, and this forms the cornerstone of Avivo's treatment. Tonique, a former participant, can attest to the effectiveness of the Avivo approach. Tonique had to confront many difficulties in her life, including growing up in a troubled household. She eventually became involved with drugs and other illegal activities and then spent time in prison. When Tonique was released from prison with only the clothes on her back, she found Avivo. There, Tonique received addiction treatment, therapeutic services, and career education and vocational training. She learned how to write a cover letter, build a resume, and properly interview for a job. Tonique has been happily reunited with her family, and she now works giving back to the community by helping women overcome sexual exploitation and other challenges.

**Funding Streams Used:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Administration for Children and Families, HHS); Community Services Block Grant (Administration for Children and Families, HHS)

**For More Information:** Contact Boyd Brown, Vice President, Chemical and Mental Health, at [boyd.brown@avivomn.org](mailto:boyd.brown@avivomn.org).

