

Freedom Dreams: A Roadmap to Best Practices of the Past, Present and Future

Early Feasible Actions (Low to Moderate Cost)

- **Building the Resource Library:** Starting a digital library with free or publicly accessible Afrocentric resources and evidence-based addiction treatment tools.
- **Cataloguing Black Pioneers in Addiction Treatment:** An online directory or social media campaign showcasing Black leaders' contributions.
- **Community-Based Prevention Programs:** Small-scale workshops in collaboration with local schools or churches to engage youth and parents.
- **Youth Education Programs:** Create youth-friendly, Afrocentric informational materials on addiction prevention and resilience skills.

Later Actions (Higher Cost/Resource Intensive)

- **Developing Afrocentric Treatment Centers:** Requires significant financial investment, partnerships, and policy support to establish a center that integrates Afrocentric practices.
- **Comprehensive Recovery Support Systems:** While feasible in stages, fully embedding these services in healthcare systems requires substantial financial backing, workforce training, and partnerships.
- **Policy Advocacy for Afrocentric and Anti-Racist Training:** Initially, smaller advocacy steps can be taken, but broader policy changes will require strategic funding, alliances, and sustained advocacy efforts.

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People Resources Needed

Early:

- **Content Curators:** Specialists to build the resource library and catalog Black pioneers.
- **Community Organizers:** Facilitators who can coordinate local prevention workshops and engage community partners.
- **Social Media & Outreach Specialists:** To share resources, raise awareness, and foster engagement around these early initiatives.

Later:

- **Culturally Sensitive Clinicians, Recovery Coaches and Peer Specialists:** Skilled in Afrocentric and trauma-informed approaches, to staff specialized treatment centers.
- **Advocacy Experts:** Focused on advancing policy reforms and securing funding for Afrocentric initiatives.
- **Program Directors:** For larger-scale recovery support programs, coordinating services across healthcare, housing, and job training.

Financial Resources Needed

Early:

- **Digital Platform Costs:** Website design and hosting for the resource library and catalog of Black pioneers.
- **Workshop Funding:** Modest funds to conduct local prevention and education workshops.

Later:

- **Program Funding:** To build and sustain Afrocentric treatment centers and comprehensive recovery support systems.
- **Policy Campaigns:** Resources to lobby for policy change, organize community advocacy, and maintain policy research.

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Foundations Focused on Racial Equity and Health Equity
(such as The Boston Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

State and Local Government Grants
(through Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health, Community Health Block Grants)



Federal Grants and National Health Agencies
(through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Healthcare Systems and Community Health Centers

National Advocacy and Philanthropic Networks

Academic and Research Institutions