



A Message from the International Union of Operating Engineers

20 million Americans are suffering with addictions and 23 million Americans are in recovery, affecting 1 in 3 American households. Alcohol and substance misuse in the construction and extraction industries are estimated to be two times the national average. Mental health issues, addiction, and suicide are not typical conversations held on construction sites and that stigma associated with these issues can prevent co-workers from seeking help, resulting in silence, shame, and worse. Starting these conversations may be intimidating but having these conversations can help workers cope with these issues on the job site and at home. Initiating a peer to peer education program on substance abuse issues is proven as an effective means for training workers to help communicate with each other and their family members in methods to address these problems. There are many unscrupulous addiction treatment centers that, at a great financial cost, fail to provide the support workers and their families need to successfully recover. The IUOE is committed to raising addiction awareness.

Please take the time to access the IUOE Substance Abuse Resource Center at <https://www.iuoe.org/members/substance-abuse-resource-center>