

Self-Support IPs

Additional preparations/materials: Copies of IP #24, *Money Matters: Self-Support in NA*, and IP #28, *Funding NA Services*, for all participants. Note sheets on tables.

Set-up	10 minutes
Part one – principles and self-support	30 minutes
Part two – funding NA services	40 minutes
Conclusion	10 minutes

Session set-up	10 minutes
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Purpose of session – to give attendees a basic understanding of what’s included in the new self-support IPs and generate ideas for discussing these locally and working to change the culture of contributions throughout NA.

Discuss the history of self-support in NA. Include these points:

- As most of us know, most members gave a \$1 back in NA’s earliest days and many are still giving a dollar today. Expenses have risen exponentially and contributions per member have not. This is talked about by many who are involved in service, but has yet to reach larger NA audience. [Slide 2]
- This can be a touchy subject, but our ability to fulfill our primary purpose and work toward the goals outlined in A Vision for NA Services depends on it. [Slide 3]
- The NA communities that need the most support—in the US and worldwide—are the ones that can least afford to contribute. In order to adequately support those members, we rely on contributions from stable NA communities that can afford to give more. (Reference world map graphic from IP #28) [Slide 4]
- The responsibility belongs to all of us, as members of NA. We used to talk about “donations,” but now we use the word “contributions.” Ask a couple of members to answer why they think the wording has changed. [Make sure you get to the point: “Donations” seems to imply something external to us. “Contributions” better indicates our membership and responsibility—ownership.]

Highlight the two pamphlets, and explain that we’ll take some time to talk about each.

The pamphlets are designed with different audiences and purposes in mind:

- [Slide 5] IP #24 aims to raise awareness and understanding of each member’s personal role in supporting NA services, including how this enriches our recovery.
- [Slide 6] IP #28 provides a graphic representation of an important aspect of our Seventh Tradition: how we fund the services that help us fulfill our primary purpose.

During the session we will discuss ideas and principles from both IPs. The intended outcome is for everyone to have a basic understanding of the pamphlets and the principles they cover, and to discuss ideas about how to spread this message of responsibility in our communities.

Part One – Our Guiding Principles and Self Support	30 minutes
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Brief large group discussion of the Eleventh Concept & Fifth Tradition	15 minutes
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Briefly mention the Fifth Tradition and the Eleventh Concept [Slide 7], and draw attention to the phrase “to further our primary purpose.” Remind members that while there are two fundamental ways we are self-supporting in NA—1) Time; 2) Money—these IPs primarily discuss financial contributions. The money we give to NA should help us better carry the message to still-suffering addicts. [Slide 8] Quote from IP #24: “The individual efforts of our members can go a long way, but willingness alone will not get a letter from California to Alaska, Brussels to St. Petersburg, or Tehran to Dubai.”

[Slide 9] Questions from pamphlet (IP #24):

- How does the way we spend our money reflect what is valuable to us?

Take answers from a handful of members on their thoughts.

“Our Fair Share”	15 minutes
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[Slide 10] Quote from IP #24: “There is a spiritual satisfaction in freely giving to support the fellowship that saved our lives. We give what we can, knowing that our contributions become part of a worldwide effort to share recovery.”

One aspect of self-support is not relying too heavily on one or a few members to meet the needs of the entire group. Thinking of the ways we just discussed about how we support the primary purpose through our contributions, how do we determine our fair share?

[Slide 11] Questions from pamphlet:

1. How much did we put in the basket in my first 30 days clean? First year? Now?
2. How have our financial circumstances changed since we got clean?
3. What more can we be doing to help others, the way we were helped by NA?

Part Two – Funding NA Services	40 minutes
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The Eleventh Concept and managing NA funds	10 minutes
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Drawing members’ attention to the phrase from the Eleventh Concept, [slide 12] “and must be managed responsibly,” bring up the issue of contributions versus fundraising.

- FR is unstable, because if one event fails the consequences can be substantial.
- FR requires large investment of time and sometimes money
- FR can distract us from the needs of addicts in our communities who aren’t here yet

Contributions are our most stable source of NA funds. Unlike failed events, if one NA member stops contributing, the effect on our funds is minimal.

Discuss the relationship of direct contributions to strong connections between groups and NA service committees at each level. [Slide 13] Call attention to the pie chart in IPs #24 and #28, and mention the fact that direct contributions have been suggested in our literature since the early 90s.

Ask the whole room the questions:

- How many of your groups contribute directly to different levels of service?
- What models do your groups use?
- How do group contributions compare to ASC/RSC expenses?

Small group discussion**20 minutes**

[Slide 14] With the idea of direct contributions in mind, have each group discuss the following questions about funding NA services:

1. Do our groups and service bodies have the money they need to operate smoothly?
2. What more could be done to further our primary purpose if we had adequate funds?

Small group feedback**10 minutes**

Hear responses from each of the small groups. Try to identify and capture some of the responses about what more could be done if we had adequate funds.

[Slide 15] Call attention to “Where Our Basket Money Goes” section of IP #28 as members talk about services provided by ASCs/RSCs.

[Slide 16] Point out that one of the arrows from the basket also leads to the map. Remind members that not only are we trying to reach addicts in our own communities who haven’t found recovery yet, but we’re trying to reach addicts all around the world.

Conclusion**10 minutes**

Giving back

[Slide 17] Direct attention to the list of “Ways to Contribute” in the back of IP #24:

- Ways we contribute to NA: sponsorship, going to meetings, sharing with newcomers, money, service, others?