



LAKE COUNTY ROSC COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS 2021

A ROSC is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to achieve abstinence and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of alcohol and drug problems.

The Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Councils will assist communities with building local recovery-oriented systems of care and that can network with the statewide ROSC Council. Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO) serves as the lead agency collaborating with community members to form the local ROSC Council. To ensure the sustainability of the ROSC Councils, this lead agency must demonstrate a commitment to establish the ROSC Council permanently with a long-term (5 year) strategic plan, either as a stand-alone non-profit organization or with a permanent business relationship with a lead agency.

Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization conducted a **preliminary** community needs assessment from June-September 2021. The focus of the assessment was to gauge recovery support services needs in the community. The assessments were geared towards three community groups:

- Individuals
- Family & Friends
- Sector Partners

Individuals:

The individual needs assessment was a battery of twenty-one demographic questions for individuals in or seeking recovery. The information collected will determine the basic level of needs required for entering recovery. The information will also provide insight into what programs and services will be needed as a first step for an individual entering recovery support.

Family & Friends:

The Family & Friends assessment was 10 questions. The questions were geared for family & friends who support an individual in recovery. The information collected will help determine the validity of the services provided in the community and what additional services are needed.

Sector Partners:

The Community partner assessment was 10 questions. The information will determine what programs exist in the community that support seeking recovery. It will also determine if the programs that exist are the programs that are needed.

Findings:

34 % of the total collected, detailed the need for more services. From conversations, we gathered that services were similar in the communities' minds as programs. There is a need for more marketing about what services different organizations have regarding recovery support services. There were also comments regarding the need for more "services", or things that will help them in their recovery walk. The need to have different types of services that a person can choose from.

21% Both the individual and community partners voiced concerns that there is not enough “programming” for recovery services in the community. Comments regarding a need for more programs for recovery support and education, more so the need to have more varied types of programs. An a-la-carte type program guide. NIRCO has already established this in the community by having different types of educational programs, that support the individual, the family, and the community.

16% Expressed the need to have programs for the family and friend, the people hurt or damaged as a result of their loved one who suffers through substance use or mental health issues. Several comments about having a separate group for just families to get better educated in recovery support services and ways to help navigate through the recovery of their loved one.

18% The need for more support groups. After discussing this with some of the individuals, it was more the need for more activities and events where they can assemble with others. NIRCO has provided several different types of groups: Grief Recovery, Health & Wellness Fairs, etc.

11% Other- this section detailed the need to make people feel more welcome by different agencies and organizations. There is still an issue of stigma amongst some of the community service providers that are supposed to help them. Also, discussions on how to access services, not just given a phone number and left on their own.

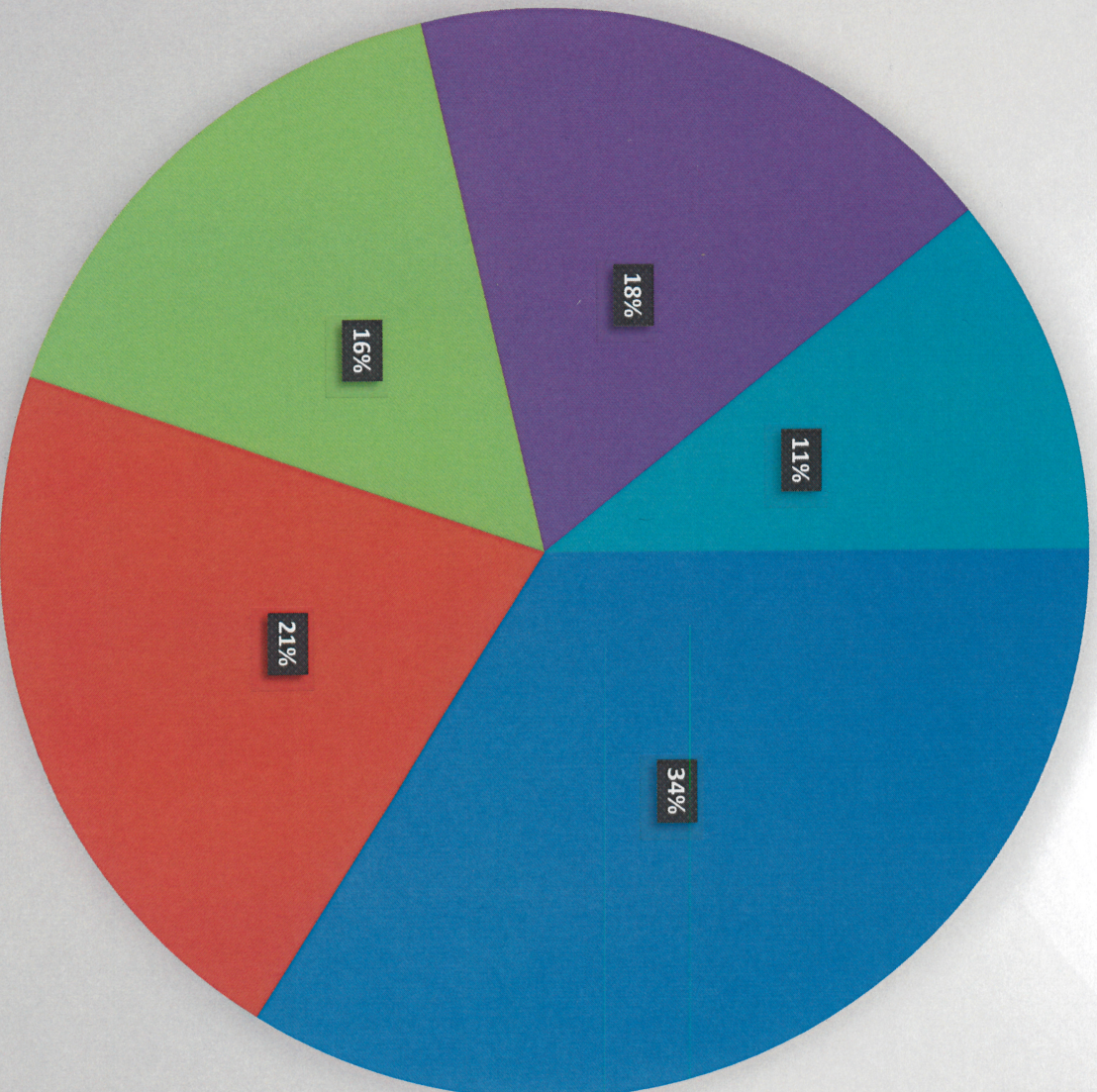
Summary:

The community needs assessment just validated what we already knew at NIRCO. The need to develop new programs that can engage different types of individuals on their recovery walk. We know here at NIRCO that what we do is not “cookie cutter” and that we have to be flexible and accommodating to our whole recovery community.

In Phase II of our community needs assessment, beginning January 2022, we will focus more on the existing recovery services in our county and gathering data that specifically speaks to current programming and services. This phase will pair our preliminary data with gathered information to begin to identify with our community partners what’s working in our county and what needs refining. The goal to serve our recovery community must be the guiding principle in our continued recovery support services work. The needs assessment data will be the foundational document to establish our 5-year Strategic plan.

There is a lot of work to do to come up with more robust services and programs, that will enable anyone on their recovery walk to be successful, whether it's their day one or day 1001. – Dr. Mary Roberson, Executive Director, Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization

NIRCO Community Needs Assessment



- More Services
- More Programs
- Family Support
- Support Groups
- Other