

Strategic Plan FY25
Coles County ROSC Council (CCRC)

Region: ROSC Region 4

Lead Agency: Hour House

County: Coles County

Contacts:

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Purpose of the Strategic Plan:

The purpose of the Coles County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Council (ROSC) Strategic Plan is to provide individualized goals broken down through activities to help achieve the objectives for each goal.

Goal A: Maintain and Expand the ROSC Council membership (Ongoing, FY26)

Objective 1: ROSC Council will meet monthly and members will maintain 50% attendance per quarter

- **Activity 1:** Establish a set schedule for ROSC Council meetings.
- **Activity 2:** Improve attendance by reaching out personally to inactive members.
- **Activity 3:** Adjust meeting times, types, and locations to maximize participation.

Objective 2: Expand Council Membership Across Key Sectors

- **Activity 4:** Identify missing stakeholders and recruit at least 10 new members within the year.
- **Activity 5:** Ensure representation from persons with lived experience, healthcare, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, education, recovery services, and other key stakeholders.
- **Activity 6:** Maintain attendance records to track stakeholder retention and participation.

Objective 3: The ROSC Council administration will stay in consistent communication with ROSC Council members.

- **Activity 7:** The ROSC Coordinator will distribute meeting minutes within five days of each meeting.
- **Activity 8:** The ROSC Coordinator will send meeting reminders one week and the day before each meeting.

Objective 4: Strengthen member ownership and involvement by creating leadership opportunities and recognizing contributions within the Coles County ROSC Council.

- **Activity 9:** Establish a structured recognition program within the next year to acknowledge and reward volunteers and leaders who demonstrate outstanding commitment and initiative.
- **Activity 10:** Host two leadership meetings annually to engage active ROSC members in goal setting, progress review, and collaborative planning.
- **Activity 11:** Launch a mentorship initiative within the next year to connect experienced members with new or less-involved participants, fostering leadership development and ongoing engagement.
- **Activity 12:** Launch a “ROSC Council Member of the Month” spotlight to regularly celebrate individuals making a positive impact

Objective 5: Ensure Long-Term Sustainability of the Coles County ROSC Council by Using Data to Optimize Resources, Measure Outcomes, and Strengthen Recovery Services

- **Activity 13:** Conduct an annual community needs assessment to gather data on current recovery needs, trends, and service gaps in Coles County.
- **Activity 14:** Conduct regular surveys of individuals in recovery, service providers, and community stakeholders to continuously identify gaps in recovery services and areas for improvement.
- **Activity 15:** Analyze the survey data to pinpoint unmet needs and underrepresented services.
- **Activity 16:** Use data from needs assessments and surveys to develop strategies for optimizing resources and strengthening recovery services to meet identified community needs
- **Activity 17:** Research and identify additional funding sources (grants, partnerships, donations) to support financial sustainability of the ROSC Council.
- **Activity 18:** Update the strategic plan regularly to refine and strengthen the ROSC Council's operations, including incorporating and refining a comprehensive succession plan to ensure organizational continuity.

Goal B: Strengthen Recovery Support Services

Objective 5: Address Transportation Barriers to Accessing Treatment.

- **Activity 19:** Collaborate with Dial-A-Ride and local public transit systems to explore options for transportation vouchers, ensuring that Coles County residents have access to affordable transportation for treatment and recovery services.
- **Activity 20:** Establish partnerships with local businesses and faith-based organizations to fund volunteer transportation initiatives, providing a reliable option for individuals needing transportation to treatment and recovery services.
- **Activity 21:** Support the development of a volunteer ride-share program specifically designed to assist individuals in accessing treatment, recovery services, and other critical appointments.

- **Activity 22:** Research and identify additional funding sources, including grants and community resources, to ensure the sustainability and expansion of transportation services for individuals seeking treatment and recovery support.
- **Activity 23:** Strengthen collaboration with the Safe Passage program in Mattoon and Charleston, ensuring coordinated efforts in providing transportation and support services to individuals in need of treatment.
- **Activity 24:** Partner with Gateways to support the warm-handoff program at Sarah Bush Lincoln, ensuring seamless transportation access for individuals referred to treatment services directly from healthcare settings.
- **Activity 25:** Maintain ongoing communication with TASK (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) to educate law enforcement on deflection strategies and ensure that transportation options are consistently available for individuals diverted into treatment rather than incarceration.

Objective 6: Explore Transitional Housing Options for Women in Recovery with Criminal or Felony Backgrounds, within Five Years

- **Activity 26:** Convene a core group of stakeholders, including local treatment providers, housing authorities, recovery advocates, and organizations supporting women with felony records (e.g., legal aid), to discuss the specific transitional housing needs of women in recovery, especially those with criminal backgrounds.
- **Activity 27:** Develop and maintain a list of landlords in the community who are open to renting to women in recovery or those with felony convictions. Provide support to landlords to ensure they understand the benefits of renting to women in recovery and offer resources to encourage participation.
- **Activity 28:** Establish partnerships with housing authorities, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to identify available gender-specific housing resources and increase affordable housing options for women in recovery, particularly those with felony convictions.
- **Activity 29:** Develop an outreach and education campaign to reduce stigma associated with renting to women with criminal backgrounds or in recovery, targeting both landlords and the broader community.
- **Activity 30:** Partner with workforce development organizations (e.g., CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation) and legal aid services to ensure that women in recovery have access to job readiness training, employment support, and legal assistance for expungement or record sealing, increasing their chances of finding stable housing.
- **Activity 31:** Work with local agencies to connect transitional housing options with services such as substance use counseling, mental health support, and healthcare services to ensure women have the necessary wraparound supports during their transition.
- **Activity 32:** Organize quarterly landlord education workshops to educate property owners about best practices in supporting women tenants with criminal records or those in recovery, including providing insight into fair housing laws, potential financial incentives, and support services available for tenants.
- **Activity 33:** Create a resource guide for landlords, specifically addressing the needs of women in recovery or those with felony records, and distribute it widely to increase awareness and build support.

Goal C: Support Incarcerated & Justice-Involved Individuals seeking treatment and recovery (Ongoing, FY26)

Objective 7: Advocate for MAR (Medication-Assisted Recovery) Services to be integrated into the Jail

- **Activity 33:** Host educational sessions for Coles County Jail staff and administration on the benefits and implementation of MAR services, including the effectiveness in supporting individuals in recovery from substance use disorders.
 - **Activity 34:** Facilitate connections between the Coles County Jail and local MAR providers to ensure the availability of services for incarcerated individuals, including setting up referral processes for treatment.
 - **Activity 36:** Promote the use of MAR resource guides, both in print and digital formats with QR codes, to help jail staff and incarcerated individuals access information about available MAR services and ensure seamless intake and reentry planning. (Illinois HelpLine).
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Goal D: Enhance Recovery Capital in Coles County through Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CRPS) & Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS)

Objective 8: Strengthen the network and growth of (CRSS/CRPS) in Coles County

- **Activity 37.** Create and maintain a master directory of all CRPS and CRSS in Coles County, including their areas of expertise, availability, and services offered. Ensure this is regularly updated and accessible to community partners.
- **Activity 38:** Initiate quarterly networking meetings for CRPS/CRSS to foster collaboration, share best practices, and address challenges in their work. These meetings will create a sense of community and provide a space for skill-building and professional development.
- **Activity 39:** Partner with local higher education programs through Lake Land College and Eastern Illinois University and treatment providers to provide quarterly training sessions for CRPS/CRSS on topics such as trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, navigating local resources, and how to engage with individuals in recovery. These sessions will ensure CRPS/CRSS are equipped with the latest tools and strategies to support their clients.
- **Activity 40:** Continue to maintain and update the Recovery Resource Guide to include a directory of CRPS/CRSS in the county, along with a summary of their services and how to access them. Distribute the guide to local organizations, including healthcare providers, social service agencies, and community centers, to ensure widespread access.
- **Activity 41:** Continue to create a monthly newsletter that highlights upcoming events, available peer recovery support services, new resources, and success stories.

- **Activity 42:** Share events and resources on the Coles County ROSC Facebook page, GSU website, local media channels, the Hour House website and distribute printed outreach materials at all partner locations monthly.

Objective 9: Increase Community Engagement and Awareness of CRPS/CRSS Services

- **Activity 43:** Maintain hosting bi-monthly peer-led education sessions where CRPS/CRSS can share their expertise on topics like recovery, stigma reduction, and accessing treatment. These sessions will be open to the public and can be held in community centers, libraries, or local schools using pre and post surveys to gauge understanding.
 - **Activity 44:** Expand current local media campaign (radio, social media, flyers) to better promote the role of CRPS/CRSS in Coles County. The campaign will aim to educate the public about what CRPS/CRSS do, how they help individuals in recovery.
 - **Activity 45:** Conduct quarterly feedback surveys to track increases in awareness and adjust strategy.
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Goal E: Harm Reduction Education & Expansion

Objective 10: Increase Harm Reduction Education and Awareness

- **Activity 46:** Hold 6 community harm reduction education groups per year in Coles County.
- **Activity 47:** Continue a countywide public education campaign with:
 - Bilingual posters, flyers, and social media content
 - Real stories from individuals in recovery
 - Myth vs. fact messaging
- **Activity 48:** Conduct pre- and post-campaign surveys to measure stigma reduction and increased knowledge.

Objective 11: Expand Harm Reduction Services and Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) Site Reach

- **Activity 49:** Increase the Coles County DOPP sites from 69 to 80, through monthly outreach with emphasis on underserved towns.
- **Activity 50:** Distribute Narcan, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, drug deactivation pouches during outreach events.
- **Activity 51:** Track outreach metrics: number of participants reached, supplies distributed, and site coverage.

Objective 12: Build and Expand Higher Education Harm Reduction Partnerships

- **Activity 52:** Continue collaboration with Eastern Illinois University (EIU) and Lake Land College (LLC) to distribute educational materials.

- **Activity 53:** Provide at least 2 peer-led Narcan and harm reduction trainings per year at EIU and LLC.
 - **Activity 54:** Collaborate with campus event coordinators to host community resource fairs.
 - **Activity 55:** Support the creation of a Harm Reduction Student Committee to assist with messaging, planning, and highlighting harm reduction champions.
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Goal F: Second Chance Employment & Peer Support Network

Objective 12: Develop and Distribute a Second-Chance Employer Resource Guide

- **Activity 56:** Identify and verify 5-10 local second-chance employers in Coles County.
- **Activity 57:** Continue to maintain a printed and digital resource guide listing employer and job seeker tips.
- **Activity 58:** Distribute the guide at libraries, jails, job fairs, recovery meetings, and online.

Objective 13: Educate and Engage Employers on Second-Chance Hiring

- **Activity 59:** Host quarterly employer training sessions on second-chance hiring practices and legal protections (e.g., Ban the Box, FCRA).
- **Activity 60:** Share success stories from employers who have successfully implemented second-chance hiring practices, along with recovery resources, to build trust and foster greater understanding.

Objective 14: Identify and Expand Wraparound Recovery Supports for Job Seekers

- **Activity 61:** Host monthly workshops focused on essential life skills for job seekers, including resume writing, budgeting, hygiene access, and reentry planning.
- **Activity 62:** Organize "Laundry Day" events offering hygiene kits and educational sessions on job readiness, self-care, and reentry strategies.
- **Activity 63:** Partner with legal aid organizations to provide informational sessions on expungement and facilitate referrals for those seeking to clear their records.
- **Activity 64:** Promote and facilitate education groups focused on employment, stigma resilience, and overcoming barriers to job readiness.

Objective 15: Host a Second-Chance Employment Fair

- **Activity 65:** Plan and host a countywide job fair that features second-chance employers, workforce training resources, and peer support tables to connect job seekers with opportunities.
- **Activity 66:** Provide on-site services at the job fair, such as resume assistance, open interviews, Narcan kits, and connections with Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS) to support attendees.

- **Activity 67:** Collect and analyze feedback from both attendees and employers to assess the fair's effectiveness and inform future planning.