

Franklin/Williamson ROSC Council (FWRC)

FY25 Statgic Plan:

Franklin County

Contacts:

Mandy Hagen, ROSC Coordinator

Kelsey Driskell, ROSC Support Specialist



FRANKLIN COUNTY

History and Demographics

Franklin County is a rural community located in Southern Illinois known locally as "Little Egypt". The region is named such because of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and noted parallels with the Nile River delta in Egypt.

	Franklin County	Illinois
Current Population (Estimate V2024)	37,033	12,710,158
Population Change 2020 - 2024	-2.1%	-0.9%
White alone	96.7%	76%
Black	0.8%	14.6%
Hispanic or Latino	2.2%	19%
Two or More Races	1.6%	2.3%
Person's age > 65	21%	17.6%
Persons with a disability <65 (2019-2023)	14.5%	8.0%
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/franklin-countyillinois,IL/PST045223		

Consistent with state-wide trends, the overall population for Franklin County has decreased in recent years. Between 2020 and 2024, the population of Franklin County decreased by 2.1% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). The demographics of Franklin County are reflective of the greater southern Illinois region. Across Franklin County, the population is 96.7% White alone, 0.8% Black, 2.2% Hispanic or Latinx, and 1.6% Multi-racial (Census QuickFacts, 2024). Franklin County is also home to a comparatively large number of senior citizens. The state average for individuals who are >65 years old

is 17.6%, but in Franklin County, this percentage is 4 points higher, at 21% (Census QuickFacts, 2024).

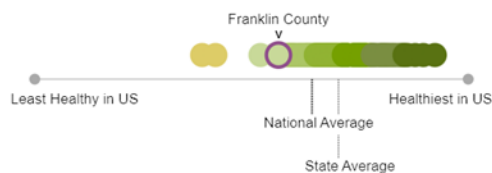
	Franklin County	Illinois
Civilian Labor Force (Population age 16 years + (2019-2023)	56.2%	64.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (persons age >25 years, 2019 – 2023)	17.1%	37.2%
Persons in Poverty	17.9%	11.6%
Median Household Income (in 2023 dollars, 2019 – 2023)	\$53,471	\$81,702
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/franklincounty_illinois,IL/PST045224		

Census data from 2019 to 2023 showed that 56.2% of individuals in Franklin County are counted in the civilian labor force, which is 9% lower than the state average, 64.9% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). An often-identified barrier to quality employment is lack of higher education attainment. This is especially true in Franklin County where only 17.1% of individuals 25 years or older have attained a bachelor's degree; the state average is 37.2% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). In addition to lower-than-state-average labor force and bachelor's degree attainment, there are limited economic opportunities and, subsequently, elevated poverty levels in Franklin County. The poverty rate across Franklin County is 17.9%, which is significantly higher than the state average of 11.6% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). Economic disparity is also apparent when reviewing median household income data. The median household income for Franklin County was \$53,471, which is over \$28,000 less than the state average, \$81,702 (Census QuickFacts, 2024). According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025, 59.2% of the Franklin County population lives in a low population density area.

Health Outcomes and Factors



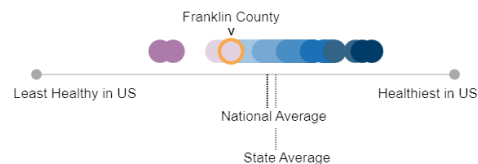
Franklin County Population Health and Well-being - 2025



Franklin County is faring worse than the average county in Illinois for Population Health and Well-being, and slightly worse than the average county in the nation.



Franklin County Community Conditions - 2025



Franklin County is faring worse than the average county in Illinois for Community Conditions, and worse than the average county in the nation.

Overall measures of health outcomes and health factors consider length and quality of life, as well as health behaviors, access to healthcare resources, socio-economic factors, environment, and other such data. Franklin County is ranked among the least healthy counties in Illinois and slightly worse than the average county in the nation as you can see in the graph above. Some of the contributing health factors, listed in the table below, reflect behavioral and systemic challenges that individuals in Franklin County must overcome.

	Franklin County	Illinois
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost before age 75, per 100,000 population)	12,300	7,900
Life Expectancy	72.5	77.5
Adult Smoking	20%	13%
Excessive Drinking	21%	19%
Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths	18%	26%
Drug Overdose Deaths (per 100,000 population)	26	29
Suicides (per 100,000 population)	24	11
Adult Obesity	40%	33%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	8%	5%

Food Insecurity	17%	12%
Population to Primary Care Physicians (ratio)	2880:1	1,260:1
Population to Mental Health Providers (ratio)	140:1	300:1
Source: https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois/franklin?year=2025		

Adult smoking is more prevalent in Franklin County (20%), compared to 13% state average (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025). Total drug overdose deaths (26) are only slightly lower than the state's total average (29). This is alarming for Franklin County residents due to the fact of the rural population. Suicide rates in Franklin County are especially concerning, with a rate of 24, which is twice the state average of 11. Also, obesity rates are elevated. Rates in Franklin County are 40% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025). Across Illinois, 12% of the population reported food insecurity; however, in Franklin County, 17% are food insecure (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025). Harmful behavioral and environmental factors are further exacerbated by limited healthcare services and availability. There are 2880 patients per primary care physician, and 140 patients per mental health provider (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025).

Youth Population Data

There are six high school districts across Franklin County. The following table lists these school districts and certain characteristics, as well as providing state average data for comparison.

Franklin County High School Districts							Illinois
	Benton CONS HSD 103	Christopher USD 99	Frankfort CUSD 168	Sesser- Valier CUSD 196	Thompsonville CUSD 174	Zeigler- Royalton CUSD 188	
Total Enrollment	588	194	398	176	88	130	1.9M
Graduation Rate	84%	88%	66%	96%	86%	83%	87.7%

Mobility (Transfer in/out)	12%	11%	18%	8%	Redacted	Redacted	7.9%
Chronic Truancy	15%	12%	26%	10%	15%	13%	20%
Low Income	52%	63%	48%	44%	51%	65%	49.8%
Homeless	5%	12%	10%	Redacted	21%	15%	2.6%
Source: https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/SearchResult.aspx?type=COUNTY&SearchText=\$Franklin\$#High-schools							

Across all the high school districts in Franklin County, the average graduation rate is 84% (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2024). A majority of the high school districts in Franklin County are higher in low-income families compared to the state. Homeless students' percentages are also greatly elevated compared to the state average. (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2024).

Youth within Benton CONS HSD, Christopher USD 99, Frankfort CUSD 168, Sesser-Valier CUSD 196 and Ziegler-Royalton CUSD 188 school districts completed the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS; 2024). The following tables provide an overview of youth responses to substance use across 30 day and one year time periods.

Used within the past 30 days	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:		
Alcohol	9%	15%
Any tobacco products OR e-cigarettes or other vaping products	8%	15%
Cigarettes	3%	3%
Smokeless Tobacco	3%	5%
Smoked tobacco (other than cigarettes)	2%	4%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	7%	14%
Marijuana	9%	10%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	0%	1%
# of Respondents	265	192

Used with in the past year	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:		
Any common substance (including alcohol, inhalants or marijuana)	24%	30%

Any common substances plus vaping (including alcohol, tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes or other vaping products, inhalants, or marijuana)	25%	32%
Alcohol	21%	27%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	12%	21%
Any Tobacco Product (including smokeless tobacco, tobacco smoked through cigarettes or cigars/cigarillos, or tobacco used in a hookah water pipe)	4%	5%
Inhalants	3%	1%
Marijuana	15%	17%
Synthetic Marijuana	2%	2%
Alcohol and marijuana at the same time	5%	8%
Alcohol and energy drinks at the same time	6%	8%
Any Illicit Drugs (excluding marijuana)	1%	2%
Crack/Cocaine	1%	1%
Hallucinogens/LSD	1%	2%
Ecstasy/MDMA	0%	1%
Methamphetamine	0%	1%
Heroin	0%	1%
Any prescription drugs to get high	1%	2%
Prescription Painkillers	0%	1%
Other Prescription Drugs	1%	2%
Prescription pain medicine without prescription or differently than prescribed	2%	2%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	2%	4%
Over the counter drugs	2%	2%
# of Respondents	265	192
Source: https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/county/		

According to IYS (2024) responses, the three most commonly used substances by 10th through 12th grade youth in Franklin County were alcohol, marijuana, and vaping products.

Adult Population Data

Adult substance use data offers valuable insights into substance use behaviors and attitudes within Franklin County. Since the county lacks an inpatient substance use treatment facility, we rely on nearby centers to provide services for individuals in need. One such facility is the Gateway Foundation, located in Jackson County, which has been a key resource for Franklin County residents. We have gathered referral data from Gateway for the past year (March 24–March 25). Additionally, we have obtained admission data from The Fellowship House, located in Union County, which also serves residents of Franklin County (October 24- March 25). Below, you will find the number of

referrals Gateway has received for Franklin County residents over the past year, along with the admission numbers for Franklin County residents at The Fellowship House in the past 6 months.

Gateway Substance Use Referrals (Mar.24-Mar.25) FRANKLIN COUNTY	
Meth	18
Alcohol	12
Marijuana	4
Opiates	4
Total Referrals	38

The Fellowship House Admissions (Oct.24-Mar.25) FRANKLIN COUNTY	
Residential Rehab	10
Detox	5

Based on the limited data we were able to collect regarding adults, it is evident that the lack of residential substance use treatment facilities within our county significantly impacts the prevalence of substance use. Without local resources available for those in need, individuals often face greater barriers to accessing necessary care and support. This gap in services not only exacerbates the challenges for those struggling with substance use but also contributes to the continued rise in substance use-related issues within our community. The absence of a local inpatient treatment center further increases the reliance on surrounding counties, which may not be equipped to meet the demand from Franklin County residents, leading to delays in treatment and missed opportunities for recovery. This data highlights the urgent need for local, accessible substance use treatment options to address the growing concern within our county effectively.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

History and Demographics

Williamson County is included in the Carbondale -Marion, IL Metropolitan Statistical Area which means, it is a geographical region with high population density at its core and close economic ties throughout the region. This area of Southern Illinois is known locally as "Little Egypt". The region is named such because of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and noted parallels with the Nile River delta in Egypt.

	Williamson County	Illinois
Current Population (Estimate V2024)	67,064	12,710,158
Population Change 2020 - 2024	-0.1%	-0.9%
White alone	90.6%	76%
Black	5.2%	14.6%
Hispanic or Latino	3%	19%
Two or More Races	2.2%	2.3%
Person's age > 65	20.5%	17.6%
Persons with a disability <65 (2019-2023)	13.2%	8%
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/williamsoncountyilinois,IL/PST045223		

The demographics of Williamson County are reflective of the greater southern Illinois region. Across Williamson County, the population is 90.6% White Only, 5.2% Black, 3% Hispanic or Latinx, and 2.2% Multi-racial (Census QuickFacts, 2024). Williamson County is also home to a comparatively large number of senior citizens. The state average for individuals who are >65 years old is 17.6%, but in Williamson County, this percentage is nearly 3 points higher, at 20.5% (Census QuickFacts, 2024).

	Williamson County	Illinois
Civilian Labor Force (Population age 16 years + (2019-2023)	58%	64.9%

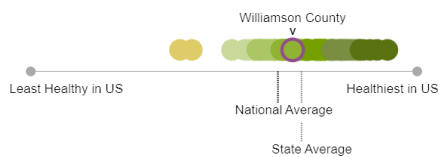
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (persons age >25 years, 2019 – 2023)	27.5%	37.2%
Persons in Poverty	16.8%	11.6%
Median Household Income (in 2023 dollars, 2019 – 2023)	\$65,521	\$81,702
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223		

Census data from 2019 to 2023 showed that 58% of individuals in Williamson County are counted in the civilian labor force, which is seven percentage points lower than the state average, 65% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). An often-identified barrier to quality employment is lack of higher education attainment. This is especially true in Williamson County where only 27.5% of individuals 25 years or older have attained a bachelor's degree; the state average is 37.2% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). In addition to lower-than-state-average labor force and bachelor's degree attainment, there are limited economic opportunities and, subsequently, elevated poverty levels in Williamson County. The poverty rate across Williamson County is 16.8%, which is over 5 points higher than the state average of 11.6% (Census QuickFacts, 2024). Economic disparity is also apparent when reviewing median household income data. The median household income for Williamson County was \$65,521, which is over \$16,000 less than the state average, \$81,702 (Census QuickFacts, 2024).

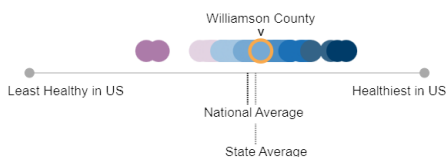
Health Outcomes and Factors



Williamson County Population Health and Well-being - 2025



Williamson County Community Conditions - 2025



Overall measures of health outcomes and health factors consider length and quality of life, as well as health behaviors, access to healthcare resources, socio-economic factors, environment, and other such data. Williamson County is faring about the same as the average county in Illinois for community conditions, and about the same as the

average county in the nation as you can see in the graph above. Some of the contributing health factors, listed in the table below, reflect behavioral and systemic challenges that individuals in Williamson County must overcome.

	Williamson County	Illinois
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population)	7400	7100
Life Expectancy	77.3	78.6
Adult Smoking	19%	13%
Excessive Drinking	21%	19%
Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths	20%	26%
Drug Overdose Deaths	25	29
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	12%	5%
Food Insecurity	14%	12%
Population to Primary Care Physicians (ratio)	1,260:1	1,260:1
Population to Mental Health Providers (ratio)	200:1	300:1
Source: https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois/williamson?year=2025		

Adult smoking is more prevalent in Williamson County (19%), compared to 13% state average (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025). In addition to higher prevalence of adult smoking, excessive drinking is also higher in Williamson County. Approximately 21% of adults reported excessive drinking, compared to the state average of 19% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025). In addition to higher smoking and excessive alcohol consumption in Williamson County, total drug overdose deaths (25) are almost equal of the state's total (29). Across Illinois, 12% of the population reported food insecurity; however, in Williamson County, 14% are food insecure (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). Harmful behavioral and environmental factors are further exacerbated by limited healthcare services and availability. There are 1260 patients per primary care physician, and 200 patients per mental health provider (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025).

Youth Population Data

There are five high school districts across Williamson County. The following table lists these school districts and certain characteristics, as well as providing state average data for comparison.

Williamson County School Districts						Illinois Average
	Carterville CUSD 5	Crab Orchard CUSD 3	Herrin CUSD 4	Johnston City CUSD 1	Marion CUSD 2	
Total Enrollment	629	137	640	325	1083	1.9M
Graduation Rate	93%	71%	90%	80%	72%	88%
Mobility (Transfer in/out)	7%	11%	15%	15%	10%	8%
Chronic Truancy	5%	10%	20%	11%	16%	20%
Low Income	40%	34%	58%	53%	53%	50%
Homeless	2%	Redacted	6%	6%	8%	3%
Source: https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/SearchResult.aspx?type=COUNTY&SearchText=\$Williamson\$						

Across all the high school districts in Williamson County, the average graduation rate is 81% (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2024). A majority of the high school districts in Williamson County are higher in low-income families compared to the state. Homeless students' percentages are also greatly elevated compared to the state average. (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2024).

NOTE: There is currently no data reported for Williamson County taking part in the 2024 Illinois Youth Survey. Below however, is the data from the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey Williamson County participated in.

Used within the past 30 days	8 th grade	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:			
Alcohol	11%	38%	44%
Any tobacco products OR e-cigarettes or other vaping products	10%	36%	35%
Cigarettes	0%	4%	6%
Smokeless Tobacco	2%	10%	7%
Smoked tobacco (other than cigarettes)	2%	8%	9%
Hookah or water pipe	2%	8%	3%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	8%	32%	32%
Marijuana	5%	12%	20%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	2%	3%	1%
# of Respondents	308	124	95

Used with in the past year	8 th grade	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:			
Any common substance (including alcohol, cigarettes, inhalants or marijuana)	31%	54%	61%
Any common substances plus vaping (including alcohol, tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes or other vaping products, inhalants, or marijuana)	33%	56%	62%
Alcohol	25%	54%	60%
Cigarettes	2%	8%	13%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	15%	37%	42%
Any Tobacco Product (including smokeless tobacco, tobacco smoked through cigarettes or cigars/cigarillos, or tobacco used in a hookah water pipe)	3%	9%	17%
Inhalants	7%	6%	3%
Marijuana	10%	23%	30%
Synthetic Marijuana	2%	5%	2%
Alcohol and marijuana at the same time	3%	15%	20%
Alcohol and energy drinks at the same time	5%	16%	22%
Any Illicit Drugs (excluding marijuana)	2%	4%	7%
Crack/Cocaine	1%	1%	3%
Hallucinogens/LSD	0%	3%	5%
Ecstasy/MDMA	1%	3%	3%
Methamphetamine	0%	1%	0%
Heroin	0%	0%	1%
Any prescription drugs to get high	1%	2%	5%
Prescription Painkillers	0%	2%	1%
Other Prescription Drugs	1%	2%	4%

Prescription pain medicine without prescription or differently than prescribed	3%	2%	4%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	4%	6%	2%
Over the counter drugs	2%	4%	1%
# of Respondents	308	124	95
Source: https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/county/			

According to IYS (2022) responses, the three most commonly used substances by 8th through 12th grade youth in Williamson County were alcohol, marijuana, and vaping products.

Adult Population Data

Adult substance use data offers valuable insights into substance use behaviors and attitudes within Franklin County. Since the county lacks an inpatient substance use treatment facility, we rely on nearby centers to provide services for individuals in need. One such facility is the Gateway Foundation, located in Jackson County, which has been a key resource for Franklin County residents. We have gathered referral data from Gateway for the past year (March 24–March 25). Additionally, we have obtained admission data from The Fellowship House, located in Union County, which also serves residents of Franklin County (October 24- March 25). Below, you will find the number of referrals Gateway has received for Franklin County residents over the past year, along with the admission numbers for Franklin County residents at The Fellowship House in the past 6 months.

Gateway Substance Use Referrals (Mar.24-Mar.25) WILLIAMSON COUNTY	
Meth	21
Alcohol	21
Cocaine	1
Marijuana	7
Opiates	5
Benzos	2
Total Referrals	57

The Fellowship House Admissions (Oct.24-Mar.25) WILLIAMSON COUNTY	
Residential Rehab	18
Detox	8

Based on the limited data we were able to collect regarding adults, it is evident that the lack of residential substance use treatment facilities within our county significantly impacts the prevalence of substance use. Without local resources available for those in need, individuals often face greater barriers to accessing necessary care and support. This gap in services not only exacerbates the challenges for those struggling with substance use but also contributes to the continued rise in substance use-related issues within our community. The absence of a local inpatient treatment center further increases the reliance on surrounding counties, which may not be equipped to meet the demand from Williamson County residents, leading to delays in treatment and missed opportunities for recovery. This data highlights the urgent need for local, accessible substance use treatment options to address the growing concern within our county effectively.

Conclusion:

In Franklin/Williamson Counties, all areas of the continuum of care—health promotion, prevention, intervention/harm reduction, treatment, and recovery—are impacted by negative, macro-level factors such as limited economic opportunity and limited, or nonexistent, infrastructure.

Additionally, perspectives on substance use within this county are heavily influenced by stigma and individuals lacking the understanding of SUD, mental health challenges, and homelessness. Also, the unawareness of resources is seen across the board through community partners, community members, people with lived experience, and those seeking recovery. This combination of socio-economic disadvantages, stigmatization, and unawareness results in barriers, not only for individuals seeking care but also for families and communities who are impacted by substance use.

The gaps that were identified in our communities through information collected using community surveys, meeting with individuals seeking or living in recovery, monthly ROSC Council meetings and SWOT analysis for the community needs assessment suggest that these gaps within these counties play an extensive role creating barriers affecting all areas of the continuum of care.

With this in consideration, the strategic goals below aim to establish how the Franklin/Williamson Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Council (ROSC) will implement goals, objectives, and activities to help better serve our communities and measure the success of FWRC. We will use the ROSC concept by educating community stakeholders on our mission, objectives, events, and other related activities to gain support and to continue the services of the FWRC through lead agency Take Action Today.

Strategic Goals:

Goal A: Increase community awareness of the FWRC development & mission.

Objective 1: Promote the concept of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) and Franklin/Williamson ROSC Council (FWRC).

Objective 2: Ensure community members know where to locate recovery support services and are aware of the resources available in the community.

Objective 3: Distribute FWRC promotional materials in our service area.

- Activity 1: Increase recognition of the PJRC through multiple social media platforms, billboard ads, resource groups, outreach events, public forums, attending other coalition meetings, educational interventions, radio broadcasts, and USPS Every Door Direct Mailers (EDDM).
- Activity 2: Promote recovery resource centers of lead agency, Take Action Today located in Franklin and Williamson counties as sites for harm reduction services, recovery and peer support services, and treatment referrals.
- Activity 3: Increase the number of Facebook followers on FWRC's Facebook page.
- Activity 4: Partner with local and regional radio and print media to share recovery-related messaging and events hosted by FWRC.

Goal B: Reduce stigma against people affected by substance use, mental health, homelessness, and/or criminal history, and people living in recovery.

Objective 1: Provide and highlight the stigma reduction messaging in the communities.

Objective 2: Promote the message that “recovery is possible” and provide encouraging evidence that “people DO recover.”

Objective 3: Expand outreach efforts to churches and other faith-based organizations to engage them in how we respond to SUD.

- Activity 1: Promote person-centered language to acknowledge people living with substance use disorders.
- Activity 2: Assist in events to provide information on SUD and recovery resources.
- Activity 3: Increase the number of PLE’s on the FWRC Council Roster and encourage them to share their stories of recovery in public forums.
- Activity 4: Partner with our lead agency Take Action Today, and other FWRC council members social media platforms to share anti-stigma reduction education.

Goal C: Continue developing a fully representative ROSC.

Objective 1: Increase community engagement in the FWRC and our community events.

Objective 2: Continue to build and support a recovery ready community.

Objective 3: Continue recruiting representatives of required/critical sectors.

- Activity 1: Hold monthly ROSC Council meetings, share networking opportunities, such as other community monthly meetings, events, and trainings.
- Activity 2: Reach out to key stakeholders for partnership, such as law enforcement, faith-based organizations, and PLE’s.
- Activity 3: Invite local businesses to sponsor our Free Laundry Day events.
- Activity 4: Attend other local community events and meetings to show our support to other agencies and our community.

Goal D: Increase awareness of recovery support services in our area.

Objective 1: Increase awareness of treatment organizations that serve our communities.

Objective 2: Educate key stakeholders and community members on the recovery resources available in our communities.

Objective 3: Continue to establish relationships between entities in the judicial system to bridge the gap between law enforcement and ROSC.

- Activity 1: Engage with other ROSC councils and welcome other systems of care or non-ROSC community stakeholders into our activities and attend their activities.
- Activity 2: Attend local recovery meetings and engage in conversation of how individuals can be a part of the ROSC council.
- Activity 3: Partner with lead agency Take Action Today in offering weekly recovery support meetings.
- Activity 4: Provide recovery support materials-brochures, training opportunities, flyers, resource bags, educational materials, and harm reduction information to those we are trying to inform such as community members, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, and PLE's.