



FY25

Community Need Resource Assessment



**BOUNCE BACK 2 LIFE
RECOVERY NETWORK**

Lights of Zion Ministries

11636 S. Halsted | Chicago, IL 60628



INTRODUCTION

The **Bounce Back 2 Life (BB2L) Recovery Network** conducted an extensive **community needs assessment** to evaluate the effectiveness and accessibility of recovery support services in **Roseland and surrounding neighborhoods**. This assessment builds upon previous findings and utilizes **focus groups, surveys, and statistical analysis** to:

- Identify **gaps in existing recovery resources**
- Assess **community readiness for a Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council**
- Develop **technical assistance priorities** for service expansion

Through this effort, BB2L aims to establish **targeted interventions and strategic collaborations** that will strengthen the recovery support network within the community.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Lights of Zion Ministries is a **faith-based nonprofit** serving the **Greater Roseland area and surrounding communities** within **Thornton Township, Cook County, Illinois**. Key service areas include:

- Roseland
- West Pullman
- Harvey
- Riverdale
- Dolton
- Dixmoor
- Phoenix
- Hazel Crest
- East Hazel Crest
- Markham
- Posen
- South Holland
- Robbins

This assessment aims to evaluate the needs of marginalized populations, including **substance users, previously incarcerated individuals, veterans, and at-risk youth**, ensuring services align with community requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT – SOUTHEAST SIDE OF CHICAGO (2023-2024)

The Southeast Side of Chicago continues to grapple with deep-seated challenges that significantly impact community well-being, including substance abuse, economic instability, and barriers to social reintegration for vulnerable populations. The rise in drug-related overdoses, coupled with persistent unemployment and crime rates, presents a pressing need for comprehensive intervention strategies that address both the symptoms and root causes of these issues.

In 2023, more than **1,700 individuals lost their lives to drug overdoses** in Chicago and surrounding suburbs, surpassing gun-related fatalities. The proliferation of **fentanyl-laced substances** has contributed to a **12% increase in opioid-related deaths** compared to 2022. While existing recovery programs strive to meet the demand for treatment, **access to detox centers, harm reduction services, and overdose prevention initiatives remains inadequate**, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.

The economic downturn has further exacerbated these issues. **Youth unemployment now exceeds 30%**, leaving many young individuals without opportunities for stable employment or career development. This lack of economic mobility contributes to increased **crime rates, substance use, and social instability**. Many small businesses in the area have struggled or closed, worsening the financial strain on families who already face limited access to housing and essential services.

For **justice-involved youth (ages 17-21)**, reentry into society presents additional hurdles. With more than **16,500 young individuals facing barriers to stable housing, employment, and mental health resources**, the risk of recidivism remains high. Many of these individuals struggle to find pathways to reintegration, as **coordinated reentry programs remain insufficient**, and school dropout rates continue to rise, reducing future employment prospects.

Despite ongoing community efforts to expand recovery services, **gaps persist in funding, accessibility, and public awareness**. Without sustained investment in comprehensive intervention programs, these cycles of poverty, addiction, and crime will continue to disrupt the lives of countless residents.

Path Forward: Building a Stronger, More Resilient Community

Addressing these challenges requires a **multi-faceted approach** that prioritizes recovery support, economic empowerment, and violence prevention. Expanding access to **substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling** is critical in curbing the rise in overdoses and ensuring that individuals seeking help can receive timely support.

Equally important is the need for **youth empowerment programs** that provide mentorship, vocational training, and education, equipping young people with the skills necessary to build a stable future. Strengthening partnerships between **local government, businesses, and community organizations** can help create a holistic support network, improving access to employment opportunities, housing, and essential services.

A more proactive approach to **violence prevention** is also essential. Implementing **community-based programs focused on conflict resolution, rehabilitation, and trauma-informed care** will play a pivotal role in addressing the root causes of crime and instability.

Finally, strategic **economic investments** are necessary to revitalize the community. Supporting **small businesses, creating workforce development initiatives, and expanding transportation options** will provide individuals with the resources they need to achieve financial security and social mobility.

A Vision for Change

Building a **safer, stronger, and more resilient community** requires **commitment, collaboration, and targeted investment**. By prioritizing recovery services, economic development, and youth engagement, we can **break the cycle of addiction, poverty, and crime**, creating a brighter future for all residents of the Southeast Side of Chicago.



GAP ANALYSIS: COMPARING COMMUNITY RESOURCES WITH SURVEY NEEDS

A structured **gap analysis** was conducted to compare **existing resources** with **community survey results**, revealing critical service deficiencies.

Community-Identified Needs	Existing Resources	Gap & Required Action
Substance Abuse Treatment	HRDI Outpatient, Haymarket Rehab, AA, Roseland Hospital	Gap: Limited inpatient detox & long-term rehab. Action: Expand treatment capacity.
Mental Health Services	HRDI Mental Health, Roseland Hospital	Gap: Long wait times, inadequate psychiatric care. Action: Increase funding for crisis intervention.
Youth Empowerment	Youth Build Program, Phalanx Family Services	Gap: Insufficient programs for high-risk youth. Action: Develop mentorship & training programs.
Affordable Housing	Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Olive Leaf Branch Shelter	Gap: High demand, low supply. Action: Secure funding for transitional housing.
Job Training & Employment	Workforce Development Centers, Community Assistance Programs	Gap: Few second-chance employment opportunities. Action: Partner with businesses for job placement.

Key Finding: Existing resources are **underutilized, underfunded, or need expansion** to address community challenges effectively.

COMMUNITY READINESS FOR ROSC & RCO (SWOT ANALYSIS)

A **SWOT analysis** assesses the community's ability to support **ROSC Council and an RCO**.

STRENGTHS

- ✓ **Established partnerships** with local hospitals and recovery services
- ✓ **Community engagement** supporting addiction recovery
- ✓ **Faith-based leadership involvement**
- ✓ **Existing service infrastructure** for mental health and substance use treatment

WEAKNESSES

- ❖ **Limited funding** for addiction recovery
- ❖ **Lack of detox facilities & sober living homes**
- ❖ **High stigma** around mental health and addiction
- ❖ **Limited public transportation** to service locations

OPPORTUNITIES

- ✚ Increase awareness through media campaigns
- ✚ Expand faith-based partnerships to reach underserved populations
- ✚ Implement peer recovery support models
- ✚ Develop employer collaborations for second-chance job opportunities

Threats

- ✚ Rising opioid-related overdoses in Roseland
- ✚ Competition for funding between service providers
- ✚ Lack of sustainable economic opportunities for recovery individuals
- ✚ Growing unemployment contributing to substance use

Key Finding: The community is **partially ready** for a ROSC, but requires **increased funding, training, and infrastructure**.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES FOR ROSC EXPANSION

Based on the **gap analysis and SWOT findings**, the following **technical assistance priorities** were identified:

1. Capacity Building & Training

- Develop **peer recovery specialist training programs**
- Provide **ROSC implementation workshops** for local service providers
- Train **faith-based leaders** on addiction recovery and mental health strategies

2. Infrastructure & Service Expansion

- Secure **funding for additional detox and sober living facilities**
- Establish **mobile outreach services** for underserved populations
- Strengthen **referral networks between recovery services and mental health providers**

3. Community Engagement & Awareness

- Launch **public awareness campaigns** on addiction resources
- Develop **community resource guides** to increase accessibility
- Organize **monthly town halls** to involve community members

4. Policy & Funding Advocacy

- Advocate for **public funding increases** for recovery services
- Partner with policymakers to create **subsidized job programs**
- Seek **philanthropic and grant funding** for sustainability

Key Finding: Expanding **funding, workforce training, outreach, and policy advocacy** is essential for a **successful ROSC model**.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Immediate Actions:

- ✓ Conduct **monthly ROSC meetings** to evaluate progress
- ✓ Develop **comprehensive funding strategies** for sustainability
- ✓ Establish a **community-led task force** for ongoing needs assessment
- ✓ Expand **targeted outreach and service coordination**

By **strengthening recovery networks, increasing access to services, and advocating for sustainable funding**, BB2L Recovery Network aims to create a **resilient, empowered, and thriving recovery community**.

