

Lee/Whiteside County ROSC Council Impact Report FY25

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The Lee/Whiteside ROSC Council sought several outcomes for the FY25 term. According to our Strategic Plan, we wanted to:

- 1) Consolidate the 2 ROSC Councils into 1
- 2) Launch a Collegiate Recovery Community at Northern Illinois University
- 3) Create a Recovery Farm
- 4) Youth Recovery Education and Engagement
- 5) Assist in bringing more Treatment/Detox and MAR opportunities to the 4 counties

These goals align with Statewide ROSC Targets of Stigma Reduction, Increasing awareness of available recovery resources and Increasing Recovery Home options. In addition, we addressed transportation issues for treatment and recovery services.

Our greatest successes were establishing and gaining community support for a new sober living home for women in Rock Falls, IL (Whiteside County), an increase in referral numbers and sources for treatment/recovery resource escalation and an increase in the number of transportation requests from peers for treatment and other reasons.

The Lee/Whiteside ROSC Council contracted in the number of active members this year but the members that stayed were more engaged. Our membership represented people with lived experience, family members, treatment organizations, local businesses, criminal justice reps, churches and hospitals.

Our primary population focus for FY25 was youth, unhoused individuals and people from rural communities. We also spent a considerable amount of time working with people in our local county jail and men in our sober living home.

Overall, the ROSC Council has helped to bring awareness to recovery in our counties. A few years ago when we opened our men's sober living home, the local newspaper spent a considerable amount of space explaining what a sober living home is and why they are beneficial. At that time, we were also met with a great deal of community resistance which we attribute to NIMBY. This year we were the recipient of a building donation and found tremendous community support for opening a very large women's sober living home in Rock Falls. Not only did the newspaper not have to explain the concept, over 100 people attended our ribbon cutting ceremony and it was front page news.