

FY26 Strategic Plan  
Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council  
Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery  
December 31, 2025

**Council Mission:** The ROSC seeks to coordinate providers and services to help prevent service duplication and to utilize all our community providers and resources to the maximum benefit of people seeking recovery from substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues.

**Council Vision:** The ROSC Council will encourage community partnerships and collaborations and work to reduce stigma.

**Needs Assessment:**

**Demographics of Survey Respondents**

A total of **173 respondents** completed the survey. The demographic characteristics of respondents are summarized below.

**Age**

Respondents represented a broad range of age groups, with the largest proportion falling between **25 and 54 years old**.

- **35–44 years:** 53 respondents (30.6%)
- **45–54 years:** 38 respondents (21.9%)
- **25–34 years:** 34 respondents (19.6.%)
- **55–64 years:** 20 respondents (11.5%)
- **18–24 years:** 11 respondents (6.3%)
- **65 and over:** 9 respondents (5.2%)
- **Under 18:** 7 respondents

**Gender**

The majority of respondents identified as female.

- **Female:** 120 respondents (69.3%)
- **Male:** 51 respondents (29.4%)
- **Prefer not to identify:** 2 respondents

**Race**

Most respondents identified as White/Caucasian, with representation from several racial groups.

- **Caucasian / White:** 126 respondents (72.8%)
- **Native American:** 20 respondents (11.5%)
- **African American / Black:** 13 respondents (7.5%)
- **Two or more races:** 5 respondents (2.8%)

- **Asian:** 1 respondent (.5%)
- **Pacific Islander:** 1 respondent (.5%)
- **No response:** 4 respondents

### Ethnicity

Most respondents identified as Non-Hispanic.

- **Non-Hispanic:** 144 respondents (83.2%)
- **Hispanic or Latino:** 23 respondents (13.2%)
- **No response:** 4 respondents

### Income Level

Household income varied, with the largest group reporting middle-income ranges.

- **\$50,000–\$99,999:** 52 respondents (30%)
- **\$25,000–\$49,999:** 44 respondents (25.4%)
- **Under \$24,999:** 29 respondents (16.7%)
- **\$100,000 and over:** 11 respondents (6.3%)
- **Prefer not to say:** 34 respondents (19.6%)

### Primary Language

- **English:** 173 respondents

### • Community demographics (population, race/ethnicity, poverty level, etc.).

Ogle County has an estimated population of 50,000, with a predominantly White demographic and smaller racial and ethnic communities. DeKalb County, with a population of 105,160 (2010 Census), has experienced an 18.2% increase since 2000.

| Demographic                    | Ogle County            | Whiteside County           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Population (2020)</b>       | ~51.8k                 | ~55.7k                     |
| <b>Median Age</b>              | ~42 years              | ~44.4 years                |
| <b>% White (2020)</b>          | ~86%                   | ~85.8%                     |
| <b>% Hispanic or Latino</b>    | ~11.2%                 | ~12.8%                     |
| <b>Median Household Income</b> | ~\$79k                 | ~\$64.5k                   |
| <b>Poverty Rate</b>            | ~9–10%                 | ~12.1%                     |
| <b>Rural/Urban</b>             | Primarily rural (~68%) | Slightly more urban (~56%) |

- **Overdose data from the service area.**

While county-level overdose data is limited, statewide trends reflect a growing crisis. In 2022, Illinois reported 3,261 opioid overdose deaths—an 8.2% increase from the prior year—with fentanyl involved in 84% of cases. The statewide opioid overdose mortality rate reached 26 per 100,000. Rural communities such as Ogle and DeKalb face significant structural barriers that worsen substance use outcomes.

- **Discuss the gaps highlighted by the council's community survey results.**

Our data and anecdotal evidence suggests that our community is very aware that there are resources available to assist with substance use issues. We find there are several gaps that influence how the community reaches for assistance.

#1 There is a great amount of stigma in this community with regard to alcoholism and SUD. This area is made up of many small interconnected towns with very small social circles.

#2 Lack of reliable public transportation is a major issue in our area. The counties all have some form of public transit with the city of DeKalb having the most robust. Outside of that system, the counties offer on-demand specific destination systems. These systems are difficult to rely upon because they require significant advance notice of travel plans and can often cancel rides at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances outside the control of the rider.

#3 There is a definite absence of higher level SUD intervention in our community. There are no residential detox centers or substance use disorder treatment facilities in our 4 counties. This includes those accepting private and public insurance. People must leave the area to find these services. A large component of the recovery process is the building of a local social support system. In our case, most of our citizens develop their support system in other communities and find themselves alone upon returning home.

**Council Outreach and Communication Plans:**

Our communication plan is made more complex by the association of the Ogle/DeKalb ROSC with its sister council in Lee and Whiteside Counties and the SVVOR RCO. At present the community does not see a distinction between the ROSC Councils and the RCO. Internally we understand the ROSC Councils to serve as “advisory committees” for the RCO. This relationship leads to the majority of communication originating from the RCO.

- **Objectives: describe what you want your communication plan to accomplish.**

The objective of all ROSC Communication is to direct the attention of the local community to solution based recovery and to fight stigma. In any individual case we may illustrate a particular event or call to action but the overall body of work is aimed to highlight the growing recovery community. Until just a short few years ago this community had no awareness of recovery initiatives and stigmatized people significantly. Our newspaper still uses wild-eyed mugshot photos of people that are arrested for drunk driving, drug offenses and other crimes. In our small town, rural community, these photos often create a comment frenzy on social media full of insensitive and accusational rhetoric. Such exposure can cause humiliation and lead them back to their addictions. This community needs to be reminded that substance use disorders and mental health issues are non-discriminatory and impact people from all socio-economic strata in society.

- **Target Audiences:**

There are several target audiences for our messaging. The most important sub-group are people that are in the contemplation stage of their recovery journey. We want these people to find opportunities to request

help as quickly and easily as possible. We next target people in early recovery asking that they dare to live their recovery out loud so that others can see their success. The ROSC operates to create change in the community and therefore stakeholders and community leadership is a huge target of ROSC Communication. The last target category is the general population whom we hope to soften their negative feelings about addiction and build support where such can be done.

• **Communication Channels & Frequency:**

The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council will utilize multiple communication channels to ensure consistent engagement, timely information sharing, and broad community outreach. All communication efforts will be coordinated by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery as the lead agency, with collaboration and support from ROSC Council members and peer leaders to ensure information is accurate, accessible, and community-driven.

| <b>Channel</b>                                   | <b>Purpose</b>  | <b>Frequency</b>         | <b>Responsible Party</b>       |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Monthly ROSC Council Meeting</b>              | Share updates, events, training opportunities, success stories, and partner resources.  | Monthly                  | SVVOR with ROSC input          |
| <b>Email Updates &amp; Partner Communication</b> | Share time-sensitive updates, meeting reminders, referrals, and collaboration opportunities.  | As Needed                | ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR       |
| <b>Sober Night Out</b>                           | Reduce isolation and promote healthy, enjoyable alternatives to substance use   | Monthly                  | SVVOR & ROSC coordinators      |
| <b>Community Outreach &amp; Presentations</b>    | Increase public awareness, reduce stigma, and educate the community about recovery, substance use disorders, and overdose prevention. | Monthly and as Requested | SVVOR, ROSC & Peer Leaders     |
| <b>Outreach Flyers</b>                           | Promote community events, training, recovery services, and educational opportunities across the Ogle/DeKalb region.                   | As Needed                | ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR staff |

|                              |  |       |  |
|------------------------------|--|-------|--|
| <b>One-to-One Engagement</b> | Build trust, connect individuals to services, and support follow-through during transitions. | Daily | Peer recovery support staff & partner agencies |
|------------------------------|--|-------|--|

### Roles and Responsibilities:

#### ROSC Council Coordinator

The ROSC Council Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day coordination and implementation of ROSC activities. Key responsibilities include organizing monthly ROSC meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, coordinating partner communication, supporting outreach and engagement efforts, and ensuring progress toward strategic goals. The Coordinator also serves as the primary point of contact for community partners. In addition, the ROSC Coordinator serves as a referral link to the RCO, connecting individuals and families with appropriate services—including treatment and recovery support.

#### Assistant ROSC Coordinator

The Assistant ROSC Council Coordinator provides support and consistency for the ROSC Council. Responsibilities include providing recording meeting minutes, meeting notification, bookkeeping and other assistant clerical jobs.

### Council Goals, Objectives, and Outcome Measures:

The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council, led by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (SVVOR), will implement three strategic community projects aimed at addressing long-standing service gaps while aligning with the ROSC goals of reducing stigma, increasing service delivery, promoting harm reduction, and prioritizing equity. These projects were selected through community feedback, peer engagement, and collaborative input from local providers.

**Project 1: Expanding Recovery Housing:** To address the complete lack of recovery housing in Ogle County, the Council will help SVVOR open a certified men's recovery home by assisting in planning stages. This project addresses stigma by offering visible, successful recovery models, promotes equity by focusing on trauma informed support, and increases access to stable housing. The SMART goals for this project are:

- Year 1: Help SVVOR to identify the optimal location for a men's sober living home in Ogle County, communicate with government representatives, community leaders and neighbors to insure acceptance of the project and work with an investor to help RCO to secure a property.
- Objectives/Strategies
  - Host meetings with Investor, Mayor, City Planner, 3 related Community Organizations, local Outpatient Treatment provider to investigate possible locations by April 2026
  - Host Community Forums and meetings with neighbors once a location is found by end of May 2026.
  - Secure letters of support from 3 of these entities by end of May 2026
  - This feasibility investigation should be completed by June 30, 2026
- Year 3: By the end of Year 3, establish at least two funding mechanisms—such as a scholarship fund, local corporate sponsorship, or foundation support—to reduce financial barriers to entry.

**Outcome Measures:**

By the end of June 2026 we will secure a property with demonstrated community support to open a sober living home in Ogle County.

**Project 2: Community Education to Combat NIMBY:** To reduce stigma and public resistance toward recovery in general, recovery housing, peer services, and harm reduction, the Council will launch a “Recovery Lives Here” campaign. This project directly addresses stigma, promotes equity, and builds community readiness. The SMART goals for this project are:

- Year 1: The ROSC Council will introduce the community to people that are living in recovery to demonstrate that success is possible. These messages will be paired with solemn remembrances of people that have lost their lives to the disease of addiction. This will emphasize the seriousness of the issue and build impact.
- Objectives/Strategies
  - Host 5 monthly outreach activities in Ogle and DeKalb counties in schools, churches, or civic organizations, each led by trained ROSC representatives, SVVOR staff or individuals in recovery beginning in February 2026
  - Organize a public community forum by June 30, 2026 featuring a minimum of three speakers with lived experience to foster stigma-free dialogue.
  - Secure at least outside one funding commitment for the ROSC public stigma campaign (billboards, print, or social media) called ‘Recovery lives Here’ by June 2026
  - Train peers and volunteers to execute outreach events throughout 2026
  - Create a list of 3 volunteers and attach them to the schedule of 6 events by January 2026
- **Year 3:** Repeat 12 monthly outreach events and two countywide forums. Continue with Recovery is Your Neighbor awareness campaign multi-platform public education campaign (billboards, social media, and/or radio) with recovery-focused messaging reaching at least 10,000 impressions, led by ROSC, SVVOR staff and the recovery community.

**Outcome Measures:**

We will see a significant increase in positive attitudes towards recovery from SUD and Mental Health issues as evidenced by our 2026 Community Needs Assessment.

**Project 3: Improve Access to SUD Services:** Ogle and DeKalb residents must currently travel 90+ minutes to reach a Medicaid-funded treatment center. This project aims to close that access gap by connecting local partners to the Whiteside Detox Center currently being developed. This project enhances harm reduction, boosts service delivery, and supports long-term recovery access. The SMART Goals for this project are:

In Year 1, SVVOR will strengthen referral pathways through Project Hope and Safe Passage deflection programs in Ogle and DeKalb counties and increase outreach and education of RCO Referral option to more potential referrers in Ogle and DeKalb Counties.

- Objectives/Strategies
  - Create an MOU that referrers sign as well as an explanatory video by February 2026
  - Secure MOU commitment from 6 referral sources in Ogle and DeKalb counties outside of those already sending referrals (Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb Police Dept., DeKalb Co. Probation) by June 30, 2026
- Year 3 will focus on fully integrating local providers into the referral and transport system, ensuring the program has signed MOUs with 15 referrers in Ogle and DeKalb by end of June 2028.

Outcome measures:

We will see an increase in referrals for assistance to the RCO in Ogle and DeKalb Counties month over month until July 2026.

**Project 4: Increase Employment Opportunities for People in Recovery:** There is a desperate need for new employment opportunities for people entering recovery in Ogle and DeKalb counties. We have seen several people complain that they are not afforded an opportunity to gain meaningful employment because of their criminal record. The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council has created a workgroup to create and execute a business outreach and training program based on the national Recovery Friendly Workplace model. The SMART Goals for this project are:

- Year 1: Ogle/DeKalb ROSC will assist the RCO in building a network of employers that are supportive of those in recovery and willing to adopt practices that reduce stigma and encourage active participation in recovery.
- Objectives/Strategies
  - RFW Workgroup will meet with potential partners and finalize a training curriculum to present to the general ROSC Council at March 2026 ROSC Meeting for feedback
  - Once approved, the plan can move forward with beta testing in 3 businesses in Ogle and DeKalb Counties. Solicit businesses to begin in March 2026
  - We will present to our 3 businesses by June 30, 2026.

Outcome Measures:

At least 1 local business fully certified as Recovery Friendly by June 30, 2026