

FY26 Strategic Plan
Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council
December 31, 2025
ROSC Coordinator - Jacob Albers
Lead Agency - Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery

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
Population (2020)	~51.8k	~55.7k
Median Age	~42 years	~44.4 years
% White (2020)	~86%	~85.8%
% Hispanic or Latino	~11.2%	~12.8%
Median Household Income	~\$79k	~\$64.5k
Poverty Rate	~9–10%	~12.1%
Rural/Urban	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.

Channel	Purpose	Frequency	Responsible Party
Monthly ROSC Council Meeting	Share updates, events, training opportunities, success stories, and partner resources.	Monthly	SVVOR with ROSC input
Email Updates & Partner Communication	Share time-sensitive updates, meeting reminders, referrals, and collaboration opportunities.	As Needed	ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR
Sober Night Out	Reduce isolation and promote healthy, enjoyable alternatives to substance use	Monthly	SVVOR & ROSC coordinators
Community Outreach & Presentations	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
Outreach Flyers	Promote community events, training, recovery services, and educational opportunities across the Ogle/DeKalb region.	As Needed	ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR staff

One-to-One Engagement	Build trust, connect individuals to services, and support follow-through during transitions.	Daily	Peer recovery support staff & partner agencies
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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 four 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 explore readiness in Ogle and DeKalb counties for men’s sober living. 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 to identify the need for a men’s sober living home in Ogle County, communicate with government representatives, community leaders and neighbors to insure acceptance of the project by June 30, 2026
- Objectives/Strategies
 - Host meetings with Mayor, City Planner, 3 related Community Organizations, local Outpatient Treatment provider to investigate need by April 2026
 - Host Community Forums and meetings with neighbors by end of May 2026 to explore community opinions.
 - Secure letters of support from 3 of these entities by end of May 2026
 - This feasibility investigation should be completed by June 30, 2027
- 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:

Number of support letters received

Number of community forums held

Number of survey responses from community members

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 reduce stigma and public resistance toward recovery in general, recovery housing, peer services, and harm reduction by January 2026.
- Objectives/Strategies
 - Host 5 monthly outreach activities in Lee and Whiteside 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.
 - Host monthly documentary screenings at the Dixon Historic Theater with monthly attendance of 50+ by June 30 2026
 - Create a list of 3 volunteers and attach them to the schedule of 6 events by January 2026
- **Year 3:** To reduce stigma and public resistance toward recovery in general, we will continue the Recovery Lives Here Program through June of 2028

Outcome Measures:

increase in positive attitudes towards recovery from SUD and Mental Health issues year over year as evidenced by our annual Community Needs Assessment.

Number of campaign impressions

Number of Meetings/Outreach events held

Number of Documentary showings

Project 3: 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 community 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 by January 2027.
- Objectives/Strategies
 - RFW Workgroup will meet with potential partners and finalize a training curriculum to present to the general ROSC Council at June 2026 ROSC Meeting for feedback
 - Solicit businesses to begin in January 2027
 - We will present to our 3 businesses by June 30, 2027.

Year 3: We will have 6 Recovery Friendly Workplace certified employers in the ROSC area

Outcome Measures:

Number of business trained

Number of businesses certified

Number of workgroup meetings

Number of businesses solicited