

FY26 Strategic Plan

Coles County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Council

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Lead Agency: Hour House

Contacts: Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator- Skylar Miller skylark@hourhouserrecovery.org
ROSC Program Supervisor- Jenna Hays jennah@hourhouserrecovery.org

Council Mission

Collaborating with one another to build and empower communities of recovery.

Council Vision

Addiction is a primary disease, and recovery is possible when individuals, families, and communities work together to provide support, empowerment, and understanding. The Coles County ROSC Council commits to embracing differences, including all voices and pathways to recovery, and strengthening the ability of persons in recovery to thrive in their communities.

Needs Assessment

Demographics

Leadership Center Agency:	Hour House
Type of Report:	Community Needs Assessment- Coles County
Setting:	Rural
Total Number of Residents:	46,423
Number of School-aged Youth:	5,974 in public schools, 302 in private schools; total of 6,276 school aged youth
Total Number of Schools:	22 public schools, 3 private schools
Total Number of Institutions of Higher Learning:	3
Total Number of Residential Treatment Facilities:	1 inpatient facility and 3 outpatient facilities
Total Number of Coalitions/ROSC Councils:	1 ROSC Council

As of the 2024 population estimate, Coles County’s population is approximately 46,423 people, a slight decline from earlier estimates. The county’s median age remains around the late 30s to early 40s range based on available age structure data.

The racial and ethnic composition shows that Coles County is still predominantly White alone (not Hispanic or Latino) at about 88.0%, with Black or African American residents around 4.6%, Asian residents about 1.3%, and persons identifying as two or more races around 2.3%. Roughly 4.2% of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race.

Poverty in Coles County continues to affect a significant portion of the community. About 18.4% of the overall population lives below the federal poverty level, and about 18.6% of children under age 18 are estimated to live in poverty, reflecting ongoing economic challenges for families and child welfare.

Overdose data in Coles County demonstrates ongoing and increasing risk. After declining from 2020 to 2022, overdose deaths rose sharply in 2023, highlighting the persistent and unpredictable nature of substance use–related harm. This risk is further compounded by higher-than-average emergency department overdose visit rates and the fact that 37% of Medicare beneficiaries in Coles County experience poor mental health or substance use conditions, exceeding the Illinois average.

This gap analysis is based on findings from the Coles County ROSC Council’s most recent community survey, which collected local perspectives on recovery support access, transportation, housing, treatment availability, peer services, and community attitudes about evidence-based practices. The insights gathered from this year’s data directly inform the Coles County ROSC Council’s strategic direction and validate the need for targeted, system-level improvements to advance a recovery-ready community.

Survey responses reveal several significant gaps that guided the selection of the county’s three priority projects: improving access to transportation and housing recovery support services, implementing Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) in local jails, and expanding the recovery support workforce by supporting the local community college in pursuing an Illinois Certification Board collaboration to develop a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS)/Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) training program. Community feedback indicates that many residents still lack awareness of available recovery support services, including MAR, medical care, substance use and mental health treatment, legal services, and support groups. This lack of clarity continues to act as a barrier to early engagement and sustained recovery.

Housing affordability and safety emerged as major concerns for individuals in recovery. When asked whether it is easy to find safe and affordable housing in Coles County, 69.2% of respondents disagreed, and an additional 19.1% neither agreed nor disagreed, underscoring the severity of the housing gap. Transportation challenges were similarly evident. More than half of respondents (52.2%) reported that it is not easy to secure safe and reliable transportation to access treatment or recovery supports, and 69.8% indicated that they—or someone they know—have missed essential appointments due to lack of transportation. These findings affirm the need to develop transportation and housing solutions that reduce access barriers and strengthen long-term recovery stability.

While community attitudes toward MAR are improving, education remains a priority need. A strong majority (71.8%) of residents agree that Coles County would benefit from additional education on evidence-based recovery supports such as MAR. Support for offering MAR in the local jail is also high (69.4%). Still, with 23.4% of respondents expressing uncertainty and 7.2% disagreeing, it is clear that continued outreach and education are necessary to build complete community understanding and support. Encouragingly, peer-based recovery support services are viewed positively, with 62.9% of respondents reporting they have benefited from or support the use of Peer Recovery Support Specialists.

Taken together, these findings highlight key system gaps in transportation, housing, MAR availability within the jail, and the local recovery support workforce. The Coles County ROSC Council’s selected

priority projects directly address these needs and represent meaningful steps toward strengthening recovery infrastructure and creating a more recovery-ready community in Coles County.

Below you can find a few comments left on the Coles County ROSC Council FY26 Community Survey regarding MAR:

“Using medicine to treat a drug addiction is just gonna make them addicted to the pill. Which is still a drug addiction. I understand the safe needles and nose spray stuff. But putting it accessible 24/7 is also opening the opportunity to use more too. So, this should be monitored.”

“I feel that MAR Treatment is a substitute for the real drug.”

“Complete abstinence from all drugs in order to recover.”

“I believe MAR is a great way to get people through detox and in jails where they are sick and have little access to lasting treatment. I do not believe methadone or Suboxone should be used long-term, and they should be weaned off by the end of treatment or the detox period. A strong 12-step program, counseling, and long-term treatment options will be more beneficial than long-term prescription drugs that cost a lot of money once off any free insurance program. Long-term use requires a long time to get off the medications as well. We are abusing the use of opioid harm reduction medications, over-prescribing them, and using way too high of doses.”

Coles County ROSC Council Outreach and Communication Plan

Purpose: This document outlines how the Coles County ROSC Council will communicate the ROSC concept by educating community stakeholders on our mission, objectives, events, and other related activities. The information below includes the specific populations we intend to target and the tactical plan for various communication channels. This plan also explains the in-depth process by which the Coles County ROSC Council will provide outreach to its community and implement the ROSC concept.

Objectives:

- Increase public awareness of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as a treatable condition.
- Reduce stigma across key stakeholder sectors.
- Promote available treatment, recovery, and harm-reduction resources.
- Build the Coles County ROSC Council credibility and visibility.
- Strengthen internal communication across the Coles County ROSC Council partnerships.
- Mobilize community members to support systemic change.
- Measure and report community progress.

Target Audiences:

Communication and outreach to the whole community are important for increasing the visibility of ROSC and progress on systemic change. During the next three years, the Coles County ROSC Council has identified its main target audiences as **faith-based, persons with lived experience, law enforcement/criminal justice, and education and service providers** to increase the likelihood of local community change.

- **Faith-Based:** To provide guidance and education on how they can better serve the recovery community.
- **Persons with lived experience (PLE):** Providing their firsthand insight ensures our recovery strategies are practical, person-centered, and grounded in the real recovery needs of the community.
- **Law enforcement/Criminal Justice:** To better serve those in the criminal justice system, reduce stigma within the system, and provide education about SUD.
- **Education:** Partner with local schools and higher-education institutions to build long-term recovery capital, including collaborating with **Lake Land College** to explore developing a **CPRS/CRSS training and certification program** to expand the local recovery workforce.
- **Service Providers:** Engaging this sector increases system alignment, improves referral pathways, reduces stigma within helping professions, and ensures individuals receive timely, coordinated, person-centered care.

Key Message:

The Coles County ROSC Council is committed to transparent, inclusive, and collaborative communication, sharing strategic initiatives, progress, resources, and opportunities with stakeholders and the community through regular updates, multi-channel outreach, stakeholder presentations, feedback loops, and accessible meetings to promote engagement, accountability, and community impact. Our efforts are clearly outlined in the chart below:

Communication Channels, Audience, Frequency, Responsible person(s)

Outreach Strategy	Audience	Frequency	Responsible Persons
Email, phone, text communication with Council members	Community members, service providers, SUD treatment, PLEs, law enforcement, faith-based, judicial, recovery supports, faith-based, education	Weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator
ROSC Council Meetings	Community members, service providers, SUD treatment, PLEs, law enforcement, faith-based, judicial, recovery supports, faith-based, education	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, and ROSC Council members
Free Laundry Day	Faith-based groups, local businesses, PLE, Family/Parents, community members, etc.	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator and members of the community, PLE's, local businesses
Coles County ROSC Council Facebook Page	Community members, service providers, persons with lived experience, families, education	Weekly/2x	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Recovery Education Groups	PLE, Judicial, Law Enforcement, Families, Service Providers	Weekly	ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Candlelight Vigil Overdose Awareness Event	Families, PLE, community members, law enforcement	Annually in August	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, PLE, and, faith-based
Anti-stigma Campaign	Schools, youth-serving organizations, community members, families, service providers	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator

Recovery Month testimonials	Community members, PLE, families, law enforcement, judicial	Annually in September	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Recovery Month Event	Community members, business owners, judicial, law enforcement, PLE, media, families	Annually in September	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, and PLE's
Host a family friendly/sober event	Community members, business owners, judicial, law enforcement, PLE, media, families	Bi-annually	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) Sites	Community members, PLE, Families, Faith-based	Bi-monthly and as needed	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Volunteer at other organization/agency/community events	Business Owners, PLE, families, community members, faith-based, service providers	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Attend Interagency meetings	Service providers, healthcare	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator
ROSC Concept presentations	Business owners, law enforcement, judicial, government, schools, service providers	5x/year	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
ROSC Council Newsletter	Service providers, SUD treatment, faith-based, media, community members, education, law enforcement, judicial, media	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator
Narcan Trainings	Community members, schools, local businesses, judicial, public spaces (library, civic center)	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Coles County ROSC Council Tik Tok	Community members, education local businesses, judicial, law enforcement, media	Bi-weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council

			Recovery Navigator
ROSC Resource Folders	Business owners, law enforcement, judicial, faith-based, community members, school, families/parents and PLE	As needed	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator

Evaluation and Feedback

The communication and outreach of the ROSC Council will be evaluated based on social media analytics, the number of community events attended and hosted, number of harm reduction trainings hosted, number of stakeholder meetings, number of ROSC concept presentations given, number of harm reduction supplies distributed, number of DOPP sites established, number of resource folders distributed, number of individuals attending free laundry days, ROSC Council Community Survey data, number of sectors represented on the ROSC Council, retention rate of ROSC Council, timeliness of completing goals, survey of ROSC Council progress.

Goal 1: Strengthen transportation and housing recovery support services in Coles County by June 30th, 2026.

Objectives FY26:

- a. By December 31st, 2025, present the transportation committee concept with the ROSC Council and plan a launch date. (Completed)
- b. By December 31st, 2025, present the housing committee concept with the ROSC council and plan a launch date. (Completed)
- c. By February 28th, 2026, form a housing committee and host the first meeting to identify housing-related recovery barriers and opportunities.
- d. By March 31st, 2026, formally establish a transportation committee and the host first meeting focused on identifying transportation gaps and potential solutions.
- e. By March 31st, 2026, collaborate with Dial-A-Ride and local public transit systems to explore transportation vouchers and pilot opportunities. (Completed & Ongoing)
- f. By March 31st, 2026, the Coles County ROSC Council will hold a one-on-one meeting with Safe Passage Programs, Gateway’s warm handoff program at Sarah Bush Lincoln, and Treatment Alternative for Safe Communities to introduce new staff, strengthen referral pathways, and ensure consistent transportation access for individuals seeking recovery services.
- g. By April 30th, 2026, host a speaker or educational session focused on housing access, tenant rights, or recovery-supportive housing models.
- h. By June 30th, 2026, secure a commitment from at least one faith-based organization to support volunteer transportation through gas cards, vouchers, or direct transportation assistance.
- i. By June 30th, 2026, engage recovery champions from recovery support groups to assist with transportation needs for individuals in early recovery.
- j. By June 30th, 2026, develop outreach and educational materials to support an anti-stigma campaign related to recovery, housing and transportation access

Progress achieved

- Gathered data from FY25-FY26 Coles County ROSC Council Community Survey to inform transportation and housing priorities.
- Partnered with Dial-A-Ride to support a Free Laundry Day in Mattoon, reducing access barriers for individuals in recovery (Ongoing)

Next Steps

- Schedule meeting dates with Safe Passages, Gateway Warm-Handoff and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC).
- Reach out to at least 10 recovery champions to assess interest in supporting transportation needs by February 28th, 2026.
- By April, 30th 2026, create a list of faith-based organizations to outreach to explore transportation assistance partnerships.

Outcomes Measures

- Number of attendees at the transportation committee meetings.
- Number of attendees at the housing committee meetings.
- Number of one-on-one meetings with local stakeholders, businesses, organizations and service providers.
- Number of volunteers committed to supporting transportation for individuals in recovery or seeking recovery services.
- Number of rides or transportation support given to individuals in recovery or seeking recovery.
- Completion of anti-stigma outreach materials.

Year Three: Access to housing, transportation, and recovery support services will be expanded across Coles County, resulting in reduced access barriers and increased recovery stability by June 30th, 2028.

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- a. By July 31st, 2026, launch a community outreach campaign to reduce stigma related to renting to women in recovery or those with criminal backgrounds, targeting both landlords and the broader community.
- b. By September 30th 2026, The Coles County ROSC Council will have regular communication with Safe Passage program in Mattoon and Charleston, Gateway's warm-handoff program at Sarah Bush Lincoln, and TASC to ensure consistent transportation access for individuals referred to treatment or diverted from incarceration.
- c. By December 31st, 2026, collaborate with CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation and Illinois Department of Employment Security Workforce Development to provide women in recovery with job readiness training, employment support, and legal assistance for record sealing or expungement.
- d. By January 31st, 2027, develop and maintain a list of landlords willing to rent to women in recovery, ensuring they understand the benefits and resources available.
- e. By January 31st, 2027, establish partnerships with housing authorities, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to identify and increase affordable, gender-specific housing resources for women with felony convictions.
- f. By March 31st, 2027, create an accessible, user-friendly guide listing recovery events,

support groups, transportation opportunities, second chance employers, workforce development resources, and recovery-supportive landlords.

- g. By April 31st, 2027, collaborate with local law enforcement, Department of Children Family and Services, mental health and SUD treatment providers, social service agencies, and businesses to help distribute the guide.
- h. By June 30th, 2027, organize quarterly landlord workshops on best practices for supporting women tenants with criminal records, educating landlords on fair housing laws, financial incentives, and available support services.
- i. By December 31st, 2027, hold an all committee meeting to review housing, transportation, and recovery support efforts and identify improvements based on partner and participant feedback.
- j. By March 31st, 2028, use findings from the review to expand or strengthen housing and transportation supports through new or improved community partnerships.
- k. By June 30th, 2028, establish a sustainability plan with committees that outlines leadership, partnerships, and next steps to continue this project.

Long Term Outcomes Measures

- Decrease in percentage of people who “Disagree, Strongly Disagree or neither agree nor disagree” when given the following statements on our annual Coles County ROSC Council Community Survey:
 - “It is easy for someone in recovery to find safe, affordable housing. “
 - “It is easy to find safe and reliable transportation for access to treatment and/or recovery supports in Coles County.”
- Number of outreach and anti-stigma materials distributed.
- Number of women in recovery completing job readiness or employment training programs.
- Number of check-ins or communication touchpoints with Safe Passage, Gateway warm-handoff, and TASC.
- Number of landlords on the recovery-supportive landlord list.
- Number of women successfully housed through landlord collaborations.
- Number of new housing partners (housing authorities, nonprofits, government agencies).
- Number of landlord workshops held (goal: quarterly).
- Workshop attendance numbers and landlord satisfaction/feedback surveys.
- Number of resource guides distributed (print + digital).
- Number of partners sharing or posting the guide (law enforcement, (Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), SUD providers, etc.).
- Number of updates made to keep the guide current during the year.
- Community feedback on usefulness of the guide (optional mini-survey).
- Increase in resources in June 2026 to June 2028
- Number of active committee members

Goal 2: By June 30, 2026, collaborate with key stakeholders—including the County Sheriff’s Office, jail administration, local healthcare providers, probation, the State’s Attorney’s Office, and persons with lived experience—to explore the feasibility and implementation requirements for offering MAR within the local jail system.

Objectives FY26:

- a. By February 28th, 2026, meet with Coles County Jail Administrator to discuss MAR and identify barriers to implementation.
- b. By March 31st, 2026, develop MAR educational materials for county-wide distribution
- c. By April 1st, 2026, host a solution-focused stakeholder meeting to review identified barriers and explore implementation strategies. After barriers are identified have a solution focused meeting by April 1st, 2026.
- d. By May 31st 2026, host a panel featuring PLEs to provide education, reduce stigma, and inform stakeholders about the benefits and realities of MAR in correctional settings.
- e. By June 30th, 2026, create and encourage the use of a MAR resource guide, both in print and digital formats with QR codes, to support jail staff and incarcerated individuals in accessing MAR services, the Illinois Helpline, and ensure seamless intake and re-entry planning.

Progress achieved

- Gathered data from Coles County ROSC Council FY25-FY26 ROSC Community Survey in related to community attitudes, awareness, and support for MAR.
- Scheduled a meeting with the Coles County Jail Administrator to connect with the new Coles County ROSC Council staff.
- Participated in an IL MAR Learning Collaborative hosted in Douglas County to strengthen knowledge of best practices and implementation models.

Next Steps

- Identify barriers related to MAR implementation the with the Jail Administrator.
- Create a localized MAR resource list aligned with the Illinois Helpline and local providers.
- Recruit PLEs who are willing to share their experience with MAR and facilitate a panel.
- Find a facility to utilize and schedule a date and time for the PLE panel event.

Outcomes Measures

- Number of MAR educational materials and resources developed and distributed.
- Number of attendances at MAR PLE panel event.
- Changes in FY27 Community Survey responses related to the support of MAR.

Year Three: By June 30, 2028, collaborate with local criminal-justice and healthcare stakeholders—including jail leadership, the Sheriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, probation, community treatment providers, and persons with lived experience—to fully establish and sustain the use of MAR within the local jail.

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- a. By July 31st, 2026, connect the jail with IL MAR Learning Collaborative and assist them in their application process.
- b. By September 30th, 2026, hold a MAR education and training session led by jail-based MAR experts to address community and law enforcement questions and establish an evidence-based understanding of MAR.
- c. By March 31st, 2027, work with jail staff and medical partners to draft MAR policies,

including screening protocols, continuation of existing MAR, initiation of MAR, and warm handoff procedures for re-entry.

- d. By February 28th, 2028, establish warm handoff agreements with local treatment providers, Safe Passage programs, and recovery support organizations to ensure continued MAR after release.

Long Term Outcomes Measures

- Number of incarcerated individuals enrolled in MAR programs per year.
- Number of individuals initiating MAR while incarcerated.
- Number of individuals released with a scheduled follow-up MAR appointment.
- Number of MAR educational and informational material distributed.
- Community Survey responses reflecting the increased understanding and support of MAR.
- Number of collaborative meetings held between the Coles County ROSC Council, medical and correctional partners.
- Number of MAR education or training sessions provided to jail leadership, correctional staff, and county partners.
- Number of stakeholders attending MAR education, planning or training sessions.

Goal 3: By June 30th, 2026, enhance Recovery Capital in Coles County through increasing CPRS and CRSS.

Objectives FY26:

- e. By January 31st, 2026, host weekly peer education sessions on recovery, stigma reduction, and treatment access at community centers, libraries, and schools.
- f. By June, 30th, 2026 create and maintain a master directory of CRPS/CRSS in Coles County, including their expertise, availability, and services, ensuring it is regularly updated and accessible to community partners.
- g. By June 30th, 2026, hold the first networking session for CRPS/CRSS to foster collaboration, share best practices, and provide professional development opportunities.
- h. Support Lakeland College's application to become an Illinois Certification Board (ICB) training school for CPRS/CRSS. (Ongoing)
- i. By June 30th, 2026, expand the local media campaign to promote the role of CRPS/CRSS in Coles County and conduct quarterly surveys to track awareness and adjust strategies. (Ongoing)

Progress achieved

- Gathered data from FY25-FY26 Coles County ROSC Council Community Survey to inform Recovery Capital development.
- Meeting with the Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator on December 16th, 2025 to gain insights on building a peer workforce in Coles County.

Next Steps

- Gather information to create the master directory of CPRS/CRSS in Coles County.
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting with Lakeland College to support coordination between ICB.
- Continue weekly peer recovery education groups

Outcomes Measures

- Number of printed CPRS/CRSS directories distributed in the community.
- Attendance at recovery education groups.

Year Three: **By June 30, 2028, expand Recovery Capital by supporting at least 2 individuals through CPRS/CRSS training and certification, resulting in a larger, better-trained peer support workforce available across multiple service settings in Coles County.**

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- By June 30th, 2027, identify three agencies who employ CPRS/CRSS.
- By June 30th 2028, integrate CPRS/CRSS roles into major behavioral health, healthcare, and justice agencies in Coles County.
- By June 30th, 2028, there will be at least two individuals trained through Lakeland College to provide peer support services.

Outcomes Measures

- Number of Coles County agencies that formally adopt CPRS/CRSS job descriptions to their organizational structure.
- Number of PLEs enrolling in and completing CPRS/CRSS certification programs.
- Number of agencies that hire at least one CPRS/CRSS staff member by 2028.
- Increase in community awareness of peer support services, based on survey data.