

2/23/26

Far Southside ROSC Community Meeting Agenda

Welcome, Introductions, and Community Sharing - Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS -Opening remarks and introductions. Frederick will invite attendees to share information about their organizations, programs, and services to encourage collaboration and strengthen community connections.

ROSC Overview, Updates, and Community Progress - Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS
An overview of the *Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC)* framework, including current accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and recent community developments. Robert will also share updates on substance use trends, recovery initiatives, and collaborative efforts supporting individuals and families in recovery and returning citizens.

Guest Speaker Introduction – Ms. Shells, ED, BSM, RCP, CAMS I

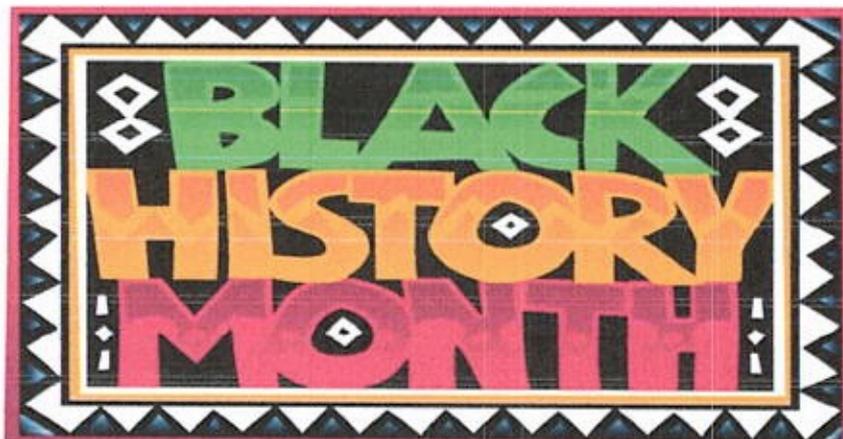
Guest Speaker: Cynthia Maddox in Partnership with N'the Spirit Transformational Living

A Bit Of History

Resources and Closing Remarks -Ms. Shells, ED - BSM, RCP, CAMS I
Review of key resources, community supports and closing reflections.

Networking and Community Connection

Please leave your business card to stay connected and collaborate beyond today's meeting.





Date:02/23/2026

Location: TEECH Foundation

1750 West 103rd Street Chicago Il 60643

In person/virtual

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83594646165?pwd=mSe9cJy0S4E90KmbD3LEy8CMpujMit.1>

Meeting ID: 835 9464 6165

Passcode: 235477

ROSC Monthly Meeting
Far Southside ROSC Community Meeting

Meeting Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Welcome, Introductions, and Community Sharing – Lead ROSC Coordinator, **Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS**, Frederick began with opening remarks and led introductions. He encouraged attendees to share information in the Zoom chat if attending virtually, and verbally for those present in person.

- In the Spirt Recovery home
- Gateway Foundation Treatment Center
- It's about Change Recovery home
- Brighter Behavior Choices
- Claudia and Eddies Recovery home
- Law Enforcement (Chief of Police)
- Chicago Public School
- Community Residents
- PLE's

ROSC Coordinator Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS – Robert opened with Black History acknowledgements, honoring the legacy of African American leaders, advocates, and community members whose contributions have fostered growth, resilience, and collective progress. This acknowledgement emphasized the historical and cultural foundations that continue to shape recovery efforts, community empowerment, and advocacy, while recognizing the enduring strength of African American communities in overcoming systemic challenges and advancing equity.

In recognition of Black History Month, an Alumni PLE acknowledgment was given to Matthew Myers, highlighting his leadership as a Supervisor with the CARA Clean Slate Program. His story was shared as a message of hope, reflecting perseverance, recovery, and professional growth. As a refugee and alumnus of the TEECH Foundation Program, Matthew has maintained three years of sobriety, achieved stable employment, and recently earned a promotion to supervisor—underscoring the power of lived experience and African American leadership in advancing recovery-oriented systems and strengthening community outcomes.

Far Southside History: A brief historical overview was provided to highlight the rich legacy of the Far Southside, emphasizing the social, economic, and political contributions of African American communities. This history underscores the foundation of resilience, advocacy, and community leadership that continues to inform current recovery and community-based efforts.

- The Great Migration & Industrial Jobs: Growth shaped by African American migration and employment in meatpacking and manufacturing industries.
- Pullman Porters & Unionization: Contributions of railroad porters and organized labor to economic advancement and workers' rights.
- Housing & Resistance: Community response to discriminatory housing practices, including opposition to blockbusting and segregation (1948).
- Cultural & Political Impact: Development as a political and cultural hub, including leadership from figures such as Harold Washington.
- Legacy & Current Efforts: Ongoing impact reflected through community-based organizations and initiatives.

Community Update and Collaboration,

The Far Southside ROSC Initiative (FSSRI) reaffirmed its role as a community-centered, values-based Recovery-Oriented System of Care focused on coordinating services, partnerships, and resources to support long-term recovery. Emphasis was placed on collaboration, equity, and shared responsibility to reduce overdose risk, prevent relapsing to active addiction and address system gaps.

FSSRI continues to serve a broad range of Chicago Far South Side neighborhoods and surrounding suburban communities, ensuring recovery supports are accessible across diverse geographic areas. The initiative remains community-driven, prioritizing stigma reduction, mental health and recovery support, infrastructure development, and strengthened connections to services.

While the Far Southside ROSC Initiative (FSSRI) primarily serves Far Southside communities, the initiative remains committed to collaboration and will provide support, coordination, and recovery-oriented assistance to neighboring areas. FSSRI recognizes that recovery is not a single service, but a shared responsibility, built through collaboration, equality, and community partnership and leadership.

- Oak Lawn
- Evergreen Park
- Robbins (Southwest)
- Dolton (Southwest)
- West Englewood
- Auburn Gresham
- Beverly
- Washington Heights
- Mount Greenwood
- Morgan Park
- Roseland (North-East)
- Calumet Heights
- Pullman
- South Deering

- Hegewisch
- Oak Lawn
- Evergreen Park
- Robbins (Southwest)
- Dolton (Southwest)

Program outcomes from July 2025 to present demonstrate measurable community impact, including support for returning citizens, diversions from the penal system, and successful program completions resulting in stability, employment, and safe housing. Challenges were acknowledged; however, progress and continuous improvement remain central to FSSRI's mission, with every advancement recognized as a positive step toward stronger, healthier communities.

The following data reflects outcomes specific to justice-involved participants served through the Far Southside ROSC Initiative (FSSRI):

- 80 returning citizens supported
- 12 individuals diverted from panel involvement
- 47 successful program completions resulting in maintained stability, employment, and safe housing
- 19 non-completions
- 1 reported overdose
- 1 related case occurring out of state

While these figures highlight justice-involved outcomes, FSSRI's scope of service extends far beyond system involvement. The initiative serves individuals who are not involved with law enforcement, as well as those experiencing mental health challenges, substance use concerns, or other life transitions. FSSRI provides recovery-oriented support to anyone seeking assistance with positive lifestyle changes or in need of resources, guidance, and community support. Services are grounded in accessibility, inclusion, and community-driven care.

Importance Of the Far Southside ROSC Initiative:

Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) are essential because they coordinate services, partnerships, and community resources to support sustained recovery across all stages of life. The Far Southside ROSC Initiative (FSSRI) plays a critical role by bringing together community stakeholders, service providers, and individuals with lived experience to create a coordinated, community-driven approach to recovery.

FSSRI is Community-centered:

- Support: Provides accessible resources while actively reducing stigma related to recovery and mental health through education, advocacy, and community engagement.
- Long-Term Support: Maintains ongoing assistance by connecting individuals and families to treatment, recovery supports, and essential services that promote sustained stability.
- Build: Strengthens relationships among community members, service providers, and partners to enhance coordinated, recovery-oriented systems of care.
- Promote: Fosters understanding, inclusion, and shared responsibility to encourage overall community wellness and resilience

FSSRI Values-based: FSSRI is grounded in core values of equity, inclusion, dignity, and community leadership. The initiative centers lived experience, prioritizes stigma reduction, and promotes culturally responsive, person-centered approaches to recovery. Guided by principles of shared responsibility and collaboration, FSSRI works to empower individuals, strengthen families, and support community-driven solutions that foster resilience, wellness, and long-term recovery.

Membership - Get Involved: Community members, service providers, organizations, and individuals with lived experience are encouraged to get involved by joining the Far Southside ROSC (FSSRI) Council. Participation offers an opportunity to collaborate, share resources, and help strengthen recovery-oriented supports across the community. To learn more about membership or upcoming meetings, contact TEECH Foundation at (224) 406-3798 or (312) 539-5263, or visit our website at www.teechfoundation1.org.

Upcoming Events:

- TBA: Reunification – Returning Citizen's and Family Reunification
- TBA: Resource Fair

Stay Connected: FSSRI - Monthly Meetings:

Stay Connected: FSSRI Monthly Meetings

- **When:** Every 4th Monday (unless a holiday or unforeseen circumstances arise)
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Format:** In-person and Zoom (in-person attendance encouraged)
- **Location:** 1750 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60643
- **Amenities:** Light refreshments and free parking provided

Introduction Guest: Ms. Shells, ED, BSM, RCP, CAMS-1:

Ms. Cynthia Maddox is a writer, actress, storyteller, and historian who has been performing since 1988. Through her work, she shares African American history and culture with a powerful message of hope, resilience, and empowerment. Her performances blend education and storytelling to bring historical narratives to life while fostering reflection, understanding, and inspiration within the community.

Community Black History Performance

Presented by Cynthia Maddox – “Harriet Tubman”

Sponsor: Advocate for Recovery, in partnership with *N The Spirit Transitional Living Home for Ladies*

About the Performance:

This compelling Black History Month performance invites audiences to experience the years 1820–1863 through the perspective of African American women whose voices and leadership shaped history. Through a powerful blend of dramatic monologue, poetry, and music, Cynthia Maddox brings to life the

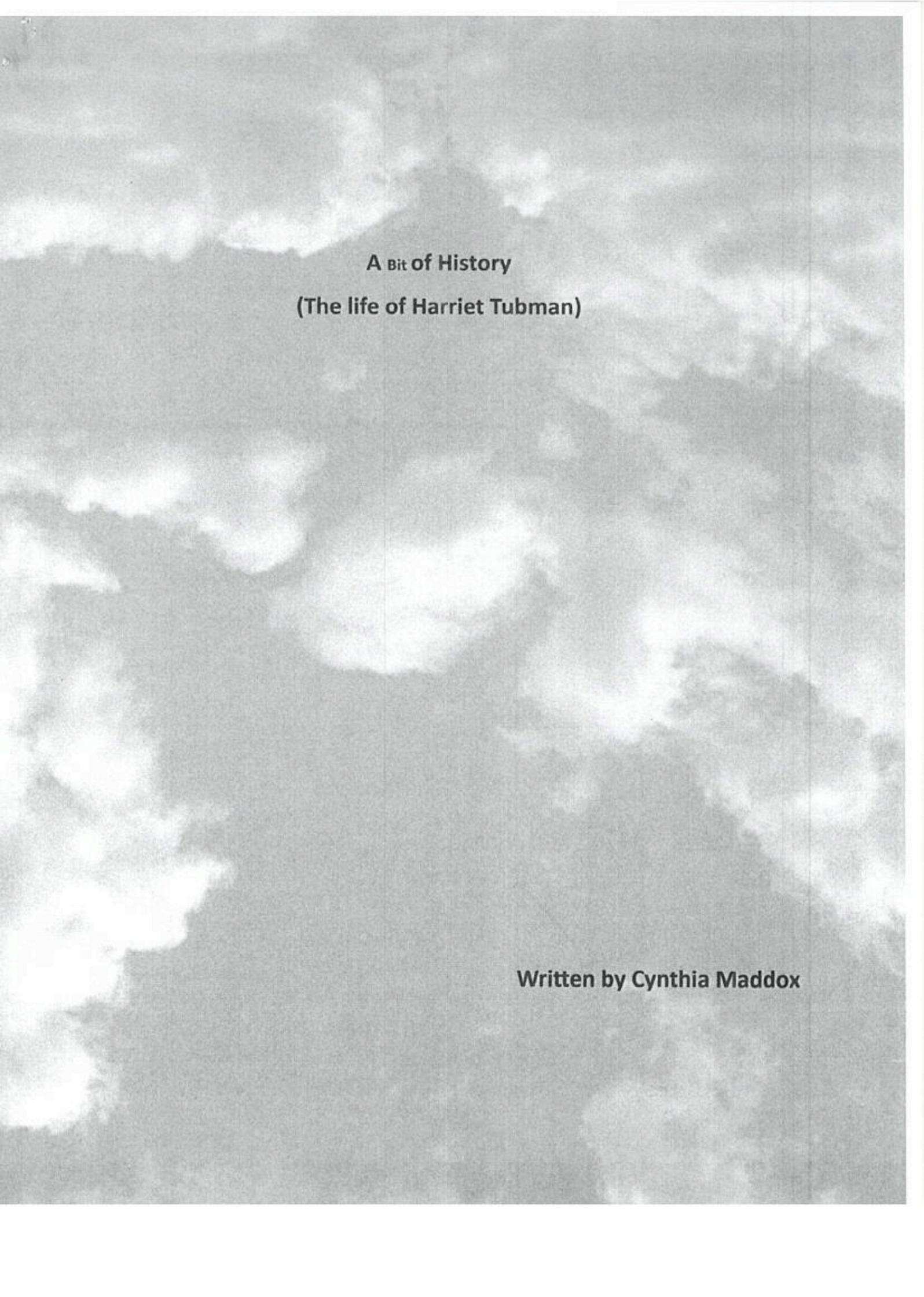
extraordinary journey of Harriet Tubman, illuminating her courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to freedom.

The performance offers an immersive and educational portrayal that honors Tubman not only as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, but also as a historian, strategist, and American hero. By centering lived experience and storytelling, the presentation connects historical struggle to present-day themes of liberation, perseverance, and empowerment, leaving audiences inspired and reflective.

Closing - Ms. DeShara Shells concluded the meeting by sharing valuable resources available to the community, emphasizing access, support, and connection. She closed with a powerful message underscoring hope, resilience, and the importance of continued collaboration, reminding attendees that recovery, wellness, and positive change are possible through community support and shared commitment.

Leave business cards and contact information in the chat for those via zoom

Meeting Adjourned:12PM



A Bit of History
(The life of Harriet Tubman)

Written by Cynthia Maddox



Cynthia Maddox



HARRIET TUBMAN

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Covering years 1820-1863, practically every aspect of the lives of African-American women has endured far-reaching negative influences that society has placed upon them. From the ordeal of slavery (which lasted two and a half centuries), to the inadequacy of education and housing that results from the traces of discrimination still felt today.

In this compelling performance, actress Cynthia Maddox offers students a dynamic look at the triumphant life of Harriet Tubman.

Through dramatic monologue, poetry and song, Ms. Maddox captures the spirit of Mrs. Tubman, giving students a powerful glimpse of the charismatic life of Lady Moses. Mrs. Tubman, whose undaunted dedication to a better society, has emphatically impacted the course of history.

Let's take a journey into the past, and get "A Bit of History" about Harriet Tubman, the main conductor of the Underground Railroad.

Welcome to the
Far Southside ROSC (FSSRI)
Frederick Buford RC, CPRS
www.techfoundation1.org
FY 2026

Feb 23, 2026



Black History Month began in 1926 as Negro History Week, created by historian Carter G. Woodson to ensure Black achievements were recognized and taught. It expanded into a month-long observance in 1976, affirming that Black history is essential to understanding America's past, present, and future

Black History Month is not only a celebration of Black achievement—it is an opportunity for **all of us** to reflect, learn labor rights, civil rights, culture, faith, and community resilience that benefit us all.



Fearless Leader

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

1941 - 2026

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. (born 1941) was a monumental American civil rights leader, Baptist minister, and politician who transformed social justice activism into political power.

A key lieutenant to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s, he later founded the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, ran groundbreaking presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988, and became a global diplomat.



Recognizing One of Our Own Who is Paving The Way

October 2025

**Matthew
Meyer**

Crew
Supervisor

Cleanstate

Meet Matthew! Matthew is one of our Crew Supervisor's at Cleanstate! Matthew started with us full-time in July 2024 and has been continually collaborating with colleagues and transitional workers calmly, coolly and collectively ever since!



What is your favorite part about your job and why?

"My favorite part about my job is watching transformations happen. Seeing someone come in unsure and leave confident that's what keeps me motivated. It's not just about completing routes or finishing tasks; it's about building people up and helping them believe in themselves again."

Two Truths and a Lie

- He plays Soccer
- He met Deebo from Friday in person
- He likes Sardines

Want the answer?
Ask Matthew!

[#ThatzMyFriend](#)

Importance of the Far Southside ROSC (FSSRI)

Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) are essential because they coordinate services, partnerships, and community resources to support sustained recovery across all stages of life.

FSSRI is Community-centered:

FSSRI matters because recovery is strengthened when systems, communities, and lived experience work together to provide continuous, coordinated support.

FSSRI is Impact-focused:

FSSRI is critical to reducing overdose, resuming addict and system gaps by creating connected pathways to care, recovery, and long-term stability.

FSSRI Values-based:

FSSRI recognizes that recovery is not a single service, a shared responsibility—built through collaboration, equity, and community leadership.

Communities Supported by FSSRI



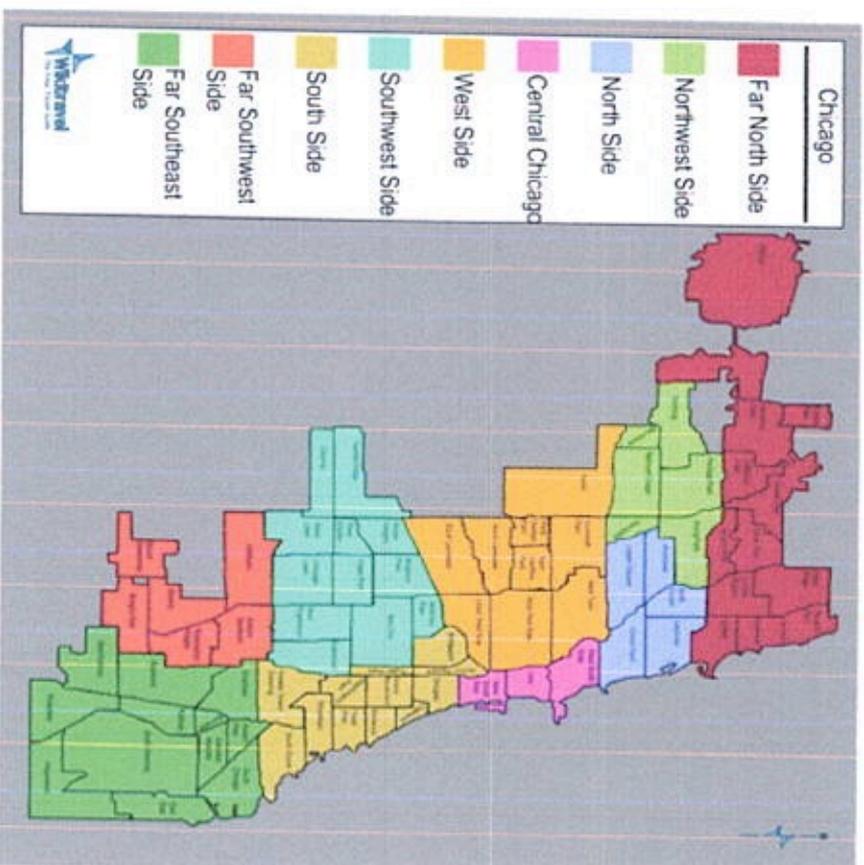
Chicago Neighborhoods

- West Englewood
- Auburn Gresham
- Beverly
- Washington Heights
- Mount Greenwood
- Morgan Park
- Roseland (North-East)
- Calumet Heights
- Pullman
- South Deering
- Hegewisch



Nearby Suburbs

- Oak Lawn
- Evergreen Park
- Robbins (Southwest)
- Dolton (Southwest)



FSSRI Support the following Community Driven:



Support recovery and mental health by reducing stigma and uniting our community



Sustain long-term support and bridging gaps to connect people with services



Build resources and infrastructure for a recovery-oriented system of care



Promote understanding and strengthening local commitment to wellness



Far Southside ROSC Council

Community Impact Overview - July 2025 to Present

As we unite our voices for change, the Far Southside ROSC Council is driving real impact in our community:

- 80 Returning Citizens Supported
- 12 Diversions from the Penal System
- 47 Successful Completions—Maintaining Stability, Employment and Safe Housing
- 19 Non-Completions (2 Returned to Penal System, 2 No Contact)
- Additional Notes: 1 Overdose, 1 Relocated Out of State

Every step forward is a victory for our neighborhoods. Your involvement helps us build hope, resilience, and lasting change!



Get Involved

As we celebrate the progress and impact, we've made together, it's time to look ahead. Our commitment to supporting returning citizens and strengthening our community continues with a series of inspiring events. Let's explore what's coming up and how you can get involved!

- TBA: Reunification – Returning Citizen's and Family Reunification Event
- Resource Fair

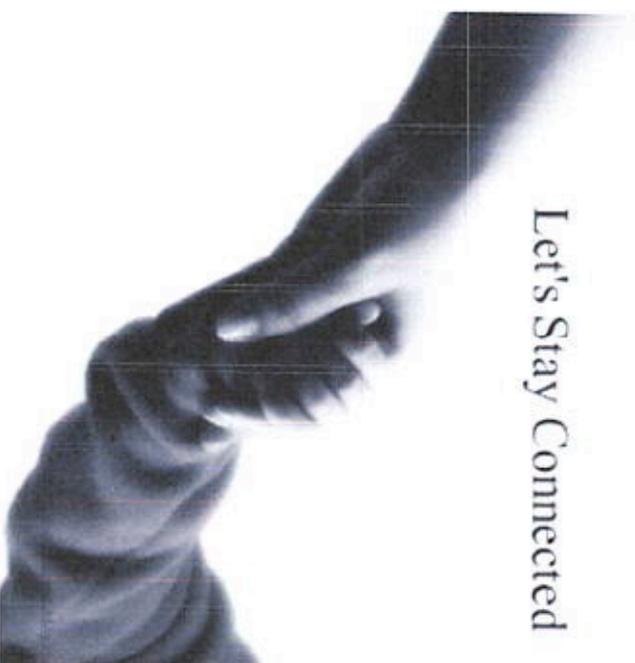
Stay Tuned more info to come: We look forward to seeing you there!

FSSRI Monthly Meetings

As we look ahead to new opportunities for connection and growth, your ongoing involvement remains essential to our mission. One of the best ways to stay engaged and make a meaningful impact is by joining our monthly FSSRI meetings. These gatherings offer a welcoming space to collaborate, share resources, and help address barriers within our community.

- **When:** Every 4th Monday (unless a holiday or unexpected challenges arise)
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Format:** In-person & Zoom (in-person encouraged)
- **Location:** 1750 W 103rd St, Chicago, IL 60643
- **Amenities:** Light refreshments, free parking
- **CEUs:** Offered to participants

Your participation, resources, and collaboration are essential to the success of our initiatives. We look forward to your active involvement and support—thank you for making a difference



Let's Stay Connected



Memberships

To join the Far Southside ROSC (FSSRI) Council, interested individuals and partners from the community —including people with lived experience, service providers, organizations, and local stakeholders — can visit our website (www.teechfoundation1.org) or contact FSSRI leadership(224) 406-3798 to learn about membership criteria and expectations.

Prospective members attend an informational meeting, commit to participation, and complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to become part of the council and support recovery-focused collaboration across the Far South Side.



Thank You



Questions



www.techfoundation1.org

A Bit Of History
Harriet Tubman
Presented by Cynthia Maddox
Sponsor: N'the Spirit Transformational Living
Ms. Pamela Frazier



Cynthia Maddox

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born a slave. When she was older she escaped from slavery then helped others do the same as a conductor on the *Underground Railroad*. She led passengers to safehouses.

These were homes and businesses that took in escaped slaves on their road to freedom. She made about nineteen trips to the South and helped over three hundred slaves escape.



Harriet Tubman

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Covering years 1820-1863, practically every aspect of the lives of African-American women has endured far-reaching negative influences that society has placed upon them. From the ordeal of slavery (which lasted two and a half centuries), to the inadequacy of education and housing that results from the traces of discrimination still felt today.

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Let's take a journey into the past, and get "A Bit of History" about Harriet Tubman, the main conductor of the Underground Railroad.



The TEACH Foundation
A Non-Profit Organization

Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event:

ROSC

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date:

Feb 23, 2016

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
Shirley Green	NTS	312-447-1694	ShirleyGreen245@gmail.com	
Margaret Jackson	NTS	723-569-7316		
Danae Abrams	NTS	303-270-6686		
LeFlora Winfield	NTS	773-616-0051	leflora.winfield@gmail.com	✓
Debra Ean Harris	NTS		debrae4273@gmail.com	✓
Danae Johnson	N/TS		misey08@aol.net	✓
Priscilla Johnson	NTS	773-315-8464	pjehanson66@hotmail.com	✓
Rodney Burton	NTS	872-36-0534	rodneyngb@icloud.com	✓
Patrice Beaton	GATEWAY	(973)485-6931	pbeaton@gatewayfoundation.org	✓
Alvin HARRIS	LIFESENTRY 365	8442972203	ALVIN@LIFESENTRY365.COM	



The TEACH Foundation
Manufacturing Education Trust

Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event:

Ross

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date:

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
MARCUS MONGER	TEACH	773 956-8159	MARCUS MONGER 800 MAIL .COM	
Domingo Mendoza	TEACH	773 571-6362		
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KENYATHA RULE	TEACH	22200 618-784- 3487	YATHA Rule@hotmail.com HARVEY HARRY 222@gmail.com	
LARRY HARVEY	TEACH			
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ROSEVAN EWING	TEACH	708-500-0273	Fbedon2003@gmail.com	
Timothy Henderson	TEACH	708-377-8934	Timothy JHB@gmail.com	
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Michael Carter	TEACH	773 970 6950	mikecarter1010@gmail.com	



Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event:

ROSC

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date:

FEB 23, 2020

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
Gynthia Henson	Nthe Spirit		gynthia.henson@aol.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pamela HAZRA	Nthe Spirit	773-508-7134	pamela.hazra@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Kim Ledwell	NTS		kimledwell@gmail.com	
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Melukhenez	NTS	773-431-8427		
Alexis Barrera	NTS	6531999-2778		
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Tiffany Alvarado	NTS	773-878-4977	alvaradotiffany369@gmail.com	



Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event: ROSC

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: _____

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
Shirley Green	NTS	312-447-1694	ShirleyGreen245@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margaret Jackson	NTS	723-562-7316		
Danae Abrams	NTS	303-270-6686		
LeFlora Winfield	NTS	773-616-0091	leflorawinfield@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Debra Elen Harris	NTS		debraelen423@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Denise Johnson	NTS		nisey08@aol.net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miscella Johnson	NTS	773-315-8464	pjohnson66@hotmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rodney Burton	NTS	822-366-0534	rodneyngb@icloud.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fatrice Baxton	Gateway	(973)485-6931	pbaxton@GatewayFoundation.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alvin Harlowe	Life Safety 365	844-297-2203	Alvin@LIFE SAFETY 365.com	



Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event: ROSC

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: _____

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
Bruce Clegg	PLE	708-476-5312	BruceClegg110@gmail.com	
ANTONIA WATKINS	PLE	773 670-7504	Isawm02113@gmail	
Jason Smith	PLE	NA	NA	
Hector Ramos	PLE	708-566-5081	Flaco Ramos 1976@gmail.com	
Kevin Harris	PLE	708-625-1110	NA	
Arlon Chawry	PLE			
Jerome Barber	PLE		Jerome Barber III	gmail
LeVelle GASTON	PLE	NA	NA	
Vanessa Tillman	PLE	779-243-0216 (312)	Vanessatillmanjohnson@gmail.com	
Frederick Buford	TEACH	897-8617	Frederickbuford@teachfoundation.net	



Far Southside ROSC Initiative

Event:

ROSC

SIGN-IN SHEET

Date:

Feb 23, 2026

FULL NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHECK FOR CEUS
Dr. Wake	TECH			
DeShana Shells	TECH			
Kimberly Howard	BBG		On-Line - Zoom	
Waverl Shery	Sgt. Parker		On-Line - Zoom	
Jennell Zell	Rose		On-Line - Zoom	
Bran Wake	TECH		On-Line - Zoom	
Taneka Wight	TECH		On-Line - Zoom	
Samia Pickett	TECH		On-Line - Zoom	