

Strategic Plan

Prepared by Westside ROSC Council Team
Last updated: Apr 28, 2026

ROSC Council 3 Year Strategic Plan FY26 – FY28 (Initial Plan)

Abstract

The Westside ROSC Council FY26–FY28 Strategic Plan outlines a comprehensive framework for continuing to strengthen recovery support services and recovery-oriented systems of care across Chicago’s West Side. As one of the early ROSC Councils in Illinois, the Westside ROSC Council has a strong history of community engagement, recovery education, partnership development, peer-led support, and cross-sector collaboration.

This updated FY26 Strategic Plan builds on the Council’s established work and identifies FY26 annual priorities that align with the longer-term three-year strategy. These priorities include reducing stigma, increasing visibility of recovery support services, improving access to sober housing and recovery residences, identifying transportation barriers, expanding overdose prevention and risk reduction education, and strengthening warm handoffs between treatment, recovery, housing, health care, and community-based supports.

The plan does not focus on increasing membership numbers for the sake of growth. Instead, it emphasizes engaging the right partners and ensuring the appropriate voices are at the table to address identified community needs. Through ongoing communication, outreach, partner engagement, needs assessment, and continuous quality improvement, the Westside ROSC Council will continue supporting a more visible, accessible, coordinated, and recovery-positive system of care for individuals and families impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and barriers to long-term recovery.



Doorway Art Unveiling @ Bethel New Life’s Mildred Wiley Wellness Campus
ROSC Council Team In Action on the West Side of Chicago

Mission and Vision

Mission

The Westside ROSC Council will continue to educate communities in the metro Chicago-Land area about the nature of addiction, recovery, and mental illness. The Council will reduce the stigma associated with addiction while giving back to the community and building relationships with diverse populations. The Council will help individuals' access and sustain long-term recovery.

Vision

The Council's vision is to put a face on recovery and support/promote recovery support services in the West Side of Chicago community. CRCC, as an RCO, offers life skills and recovery education workshops to recovery residences in the state of Illinois. We also provide individual personalized sessions to help clients and their families remove barriers to recovery.

Goals and Objectives

Our Goals

Westside ROSC Council's overall goal is to advocate for, assist with, guide, and monitor the development of an integrated system of recovery by creating a shared vision to improve availability of services and strengthen a sustainable ROSC Council.

The four goals established by the Westside ROSC Council in its FY26–FY28 Strategic Plan are:



Goal 1

Ongoing support of the Westside ROSC Council through CRCC leadership, partner engagement, communication, and continuous quality improvement.



Goal 2

Reduce stigma and NIMBY attitudes related to recovery, recovery support services, sober housing, and recovery residences.



Goal 3

Improve access to treatment and recovery services by identifying and addressing transportation barriers, overdose prevention/risk reduction access gaps, and related recovery support needs.



Goal 4

Establish and strengthen warm handoffs between treatment organizations, recovery organizations, housing resources, health care partners, and community-based supports.

Our Objectives

Goals, objectives, activities, and measures are detailed in the Council Goals, Objectives, and Outcome Measures section of this document. Additionally, the Westside ROSC Council has established FY26 annual priorities within its Communication and Community Outreach Plan to support progress toward these four strategic goals.

The purpose of this updated strategic plan is to build upon the goals, activities, and actions developed by the Westside ROSC Council during its earlier planning and implementation cycles and to guide the Council's work through FY26–FY28. This plan reflects lessons learned from prior years, community feedback, partner input, the FY25 Westside ROSC Community Needs Survey, and ongoing continuous quality improvement efforts.

FY26 is not a start-up or foundation year. The Westside ROSC Council has already established a strong presence across the West Side through years of outreach, education, partnership development, recovery support, and community engagement.

FY26 will serve as an annual priority year that strengthens alignment between current activities and the longer-term FY26–FY28 strategic plan.

Needs Assessment

The West Side of Chicago is home to a resilient and culturally rich population residing in neighborhoods such as Austin, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, Humboldt Park, West Town, Near West Side, Lower West Side, Hermosa, and Belmont Cragin. These communities have historically been vibrant hubs of African American, Latino, immigrant, working-class, faith-based, and recovery communities. However, many neighborhoods have also experienced decades of disinvestment, systemic inequities, trauma, community violence, poverty, housing instability, and limited access to health and behavioral health services.

Key findings from the FY25 Westside ROSC (WS ROSC) Community Needs Survey highlight ongoing service gaps, community strengths, and challenges related to recovery, mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, sober housing, transportation, and coordinated service access.

Demographic Profile

- The population across the West Side is predominantly African American and Hispanic/Latino.
- Many residents face economic hardship, with significant numbers living below the federal poverty line.
- The area also experiences elevated rates of unemployment and underemployment, as well as disparities in access to quality education, health care, behavioral health services, stable housing, and transportation.

Impact of Substance Use and Mental Health

Communities across the West Side continue to be disproportionately affected by opioid use, overdose risk, substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and trauma. Mental health concerns such as depression, anxiety, trauma, grief, and PTSD are often intensified by chronic exposure to violence, incarceration, poverty, housing instability, and limited access to culturally responsive care.

Substance use and mental health challenges are also affected by stigma, limited treatment access, uneven access to overdose prevention resources, transportation barriers, and fragmented referral systems. These factors make it harder for individuals and families to receive timely support and sustain long-term recovery.

Community Disparities and Systemic Barriers

Ongoing barriers identified through Council feedback, partner conversations, and community input include:

- Stigma related to substance use, mental health, recovery, sober housing, and recovery residences.
- Limited visibility of recovery support services.
- Uneven access to overdose prevention and risk reduction resources.
- Gaps in recovery housing and sober living options.
- Transportation barriers that limit access to treatment, recovery support services, housing, and community resources.
- Lack of sufficient behavioral health providers and trauma-informed services.
- Limited culturally responsive service access.
- Fragmented referral pathways and inconsistent warm handoffs.
- Barriers related to affordability, eligibility requirements, insurance, and service navigation.
- Need for stronger coordination across treatment, recovery, housing, health care, and community-based providers.

Community Perspectives

In addition to these critical indicators of the challenges facing the WS ROSC Council in achieving its vision and mission is community perceptions on substance use and mental health challenges at the individual, service, and treatment levels, as well as broader social concerns such as homelessness, crime, and youth wellbeing. Key highlights include:

- **Stigma and Respect:** 89% said that people who suffer from mental illness deserve respect compared with 75% who agreed that those who use drugs deserve respect.
- **Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR):** While 60% of survey respondents agreed that MAR was an effective tool in supporting recovery, 32% of respondents were either neutral or did not know. Additionally, survey respondents indicated a wide range of knowledge behind whether there are enough MAR services available, with 53% agreeing that there was enough of these supports, 39% disagreeing, 25% either neutral or reporting they did not know.
- **Harm Reduction Services:** 53% of survey respondents Agreed that harm reduction services (e.g., Narcan, syringe programs) are helpful for those that utilize these tools, however, only 39% of survey respondents indicated that accessing these supports was not difficult.
- **Access to Services:** 46% of survey respondents agreed that everyone has access to services for Mental Health, while 51% agreed that everyone has access to Substance Use Services the percentage is higher at 51%.
- **Community Health and Safety Trends: Overdose Trend;** 41% of survey respondents agreed that there had been an increase in overdose rates in the last year. Additionally, 57% of the respondents agreed there is higher crime rate over last year and 64% agreed there are more unhoused individuals.
- **Gaps in Services and Supports: Prevention/Wellness;** While 51% of survey respondents believe there are prevention and wellness programs and initiatives are available in the community for individuals to take advantage of a significant minority (32%) responded as either neutral or did not know. Sober Living Opportunities; Only 30% of survey respondents have enough of these opportunities in the community. Recovery Supports: 69% of the respondents said that they know what Recovery Support Services are and know where to find them in their community and 80% of the respondents agreed that there needs to be more Recovery Support Services available in the community.

The results of the FY25 WS ROSC Community Needs Survey have informed and underpins both the WS ROSC’s Communication and Community Outreach Plan, and its Strategic Goals, Objectives and Outcome Measures as established and detailed in the sections below.

WS ROSC Communication and Community Outreach Plan

Purpose

The WS ROSC Council has developed a Communication and Community Outreach Plan as part of its FY26 strategic planning process. This plan supports the Council’s FY26–FY28 strategic goals and outlines how the Council will communicate with members, partners, consumers, people with lived experience, family members, providers, and community stakeholders.

The overall goal of the Communication and Community Outreach Plan is to implement an organized, consistent, and recovery-positive outreach and communication approach that supports the Council’s four strategic goals. This approach will help strengthen a diverse, responsive, and recovery-oriented system of care across Chicago’s West Side.

During FY26, the Council will use communication and outreach strategies to support the following annual priorities:

1. Reducing stigma and increasing visibility of recovery supports.
2. Improving access to sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention resources, and recovery support services.
3. Strengthening referral coordination and warm handoffs between treatment, recovery, housing, health care, and community-based providers.
4. Engaging the appropriate partners and community voices connected to these priorities.

Objectives

Community challenges and FY26 objectives selected by the WS ROSC Council to support its strategic goals are listed below.

Community Challenge: Need for the Right Partner Engagement and Cross-Sector Coordination

WS ROSC CC Plan FY26 Objective 1: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will strengthen partner engagement by identifying and engaging appropriate partners, sectors, and community voices connected to the Council's FY26 priorities, including stigma reduction, sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention, recovery supports, and warm handoffs.

This objective replaces prior language focused on increasing membership numbers. The emphasis for FY26 is not on growing membership for the sake of numbers, but on ensuring that the right partners and voices are engaged in meaningful planning and coordination. (Aligned Strategic Goals: 1 and 4)

Community Challenge: Uneven Access to Overdose Prevention and Risk Reduction Resources

WS ROSC CC Plan FY26 Objective 2: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will support expanded access to overdose prevention and risk reduction education by continuing Narcan-related education, training, and outreach activities and by identifying gaps in access to overdose prevention resources across the West Side. (Aligned Strategic Goals: 2 and 3)

Community Challenge: Stigma and Limited Visibility of Recovery Support Services

WS ROSC CC Plan FY26 Objective 3: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will increase recovery education, address stigma, and promote the visibility of recovery supports by hosting or participating in at least 10 community recovery education, outreach, or engagement activities and sharing recovery-positive messaging through the Council's website, social media, meetings, outreach materials, and partner communications. (Aligned Strategic Goals: 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Community Challenge: Access Barriers Related to Sober Housing, Transportation, and Warm Handoffs

WS ROSC CC Plan FY26 Objective 4: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will identify, and document key access barriers related to sober housing, transportation, referral coordination, and warm handoffs through Council discussion, partner feedback, community input, and review of available service information. (Aligned Strategic Goals: 2, 3, and 4)

Target Audiences

WS ROSC's focus of its CC Plan is to include representatives of the 17 Community Sections identified in the SPF/DFC Frameworks and includes: SUD/MH Providers, Recovery Support Services Providers, Individuals in active addiction and /or seeking recovery, PLEs, Business Owners, Politicians/Legislators, Hospitals, Schools,

Family, Friends, Law Enforcement, Faith-Based Groups, Recovery Supports, Media, Senior Citizens, Youths and Returning Citizens. Each of these groups brings a unique perspective on the SU/MH services systems of care within the WS ROSC communities of Austin, Humboldt Park, West & East Garfield Park, North & South Lawndale, West Town, Near West Side, Lower West Side, Hermosa, Belmont Cragin.

WS ROSC's CC Plan implements strategies designed to both engage and keep informed these valuable ROSC stakeholders, as well as expand community interest in and support of the work on the project in strengthening the ROSC within Chicago's Westside neighborhoods. WS Council shares monthly meeting agendas, monthly meeting minutes, community event announcements and other critical information regarding its ROSC initiative via a combination of e-mails, zoom calls, social media/press releases, and updates to the governors' state website. Additionally, as part of its outreach efforts to new providers, agencies, community members, individuals, family members, and other recovery stakeholders, WS ROSC's CC Plan provides information and education on the initiative through one-on-one and small group contacts and meetings as requested.

Key Messages

The following key messages will guide all WS ROSC Council communications, outreach, and engagement efforts.

Recovery is Possible: Recovery from substance use and mental health challenges is achievable, sustainable, and strengthened through community-based supports.

Recovery is Person-Centered and Inclusive: The WS ROSC values lived experience, cultural humility, and community voice, ensuring services are accessible, trauma-informed, and responsive to diverse populations.

Collaboration Strengthens Systems: Cross-sector partnerships among treatment providers, recovery support organizations, harm reduction services, housing providers, and community stakeholders are essential to building an effective recovery-oriented system of care.

Stigma is a Barrier to Care: Reducing stigma and NIMBY attitudes is critical to expanding recovery housing, harm reduction services, and community acceptance.

Warm Hand-Offs Save Lives: Coordinated referrals and seamless transitions between treatment, recovery support, and community services improve outcomes and continuity of care.

Equity and Access Matter: Transportation, affordability, and system navigation remain barriers; WS ROSC is committed to addressing inequities that limit access to recovery supports on Chicago’s West Side.

Community Engagement Drives Change: Sustainable systems are built through ongoing community education, shared responsibility, and collective action.

These messages will be consistently integrated into outreach materials, meetings, public education efforts, and digital communications to reinforce WS ROSC goals and priorities.

Communication Channels and Frequency

Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition is a Recovery Community Organization and serves as the lead agency supporting the WS ROSC Council. In this leadership role, CRCC provides the staffing, coordination, communication, and documentation necessary to support the Council’s work and strengthen the recovery-oriented system of care across Chicago’s West Side.

In its Leadership Role, CRCC has successfully facilitated the development and maturation of the WS ROSC since 2018 in strengthening the recovery-oriented system of care within our communities. CRCC provides the staffing necessary to facilitate the multi-faceted, multi-participant and multi-channel communications required to foster the collaborative processes necessary to implement a fully recovery-oriented system of care.

The WS ROSC Council and its Communication and Community Outreach Plan will use multiple communication channels to share information with stakeholders and community members.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION	TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Website • Facebook • Instagram • LinkedIn • Twitter/X • Constant Contact • Digital flyers and newsletters • Online meeting reminders and announcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyers and Newsletters • Local newspaper or community media when available • Outreach materials distributed at partner agencies, community events, and meetings
ZOOM AND HYBRID COMMUNICATION	TELECOMMUNICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly ROSC Council meetings. • Hybrid meeting options when available. • Virtual partner meetings. • Recovery education sessions. • Community education or training activities. • Meeting agendas, reminders, and follow-up communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder calls for Council meetings and events. • Follow-up calls to partners and stakeholders. • Direct communication with community members, providers, and Council participants. • Contact information for WS ROSC Leadership: Dora Dantzler-Wright, John Wright, and Venessa Moreno.

* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/695761637?pwd=eVVOUzJ1N3VUcXI6WFJzSnVNOVJXdz09> | Meeting ID: 695 761 637 | Passcode: 038839

In its leadership role, CRCC will manage digital communications, respond to inquiries, support meeting coordination, develop agendas, identify speakers, take notes, share meeting summaries, and facilitate stakeholder connections.

Communication activities will be used to increase visibility of the WS ROSC Council, share progress and challenges, promote recovery-positive messaging, and support engagement from the right partners and community voices.

Outreach efforts may include:

- Word of mouth from Council members, staff, peers, and community partners.
- Flyers and newsletters shared electronically and in person.
- Direct outreach to priority partners and community stakeholders.
- Educational seminars, trainings, and recovery symposiums.

- Attendance at CAPS meetings, town halls, community forums, and partner meetings.
- Circulating community bulletins and announcements.
- Hosting or participating in holiday, recovery, and community-building events.
- Attending partner agency events and local business/community events.
- Street outreach and community-based resource sharing.
- Sharing overdose prevention education and resources.
- Hosting or supporting All Recovery Meetings.
- Participating in task force meetings and stakeholder meetings.
- Sharing information about recovery support services, sober housing, transportation barriers, and warm handoffs.
- Using Council meetings to gather partner feedback and identify service gaps.

These outreach efforts are intended to strengthen visibility, build trust, reduce stigma, and improve connection to recovery support services across the West Side.

Roles and Responsibilities

CRCC (Lead Agency/RCO): Convening and staffing monthly WS ROSC Council meetings; Managing communications and outreach; Supporting implementation of the strategic plan; Coordinating priority partner engagement; Supporting continuous quality improvement; Supporting needs assessment and feedback activities; Providing recovery education and technical assistance where appropriate; Maintaining documentation and reporting; Supporting partner connections around stigma reduction, access barriers, sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention, and warm handoffs.

WS ROSC Council Members: Attending and participating in Council meetings; Sharing resources, expertise, and community knowledge; Supporting recovery-positive messaging and stigma reduction; Helping identify service gaps and access barriers; Supporting referral coordination and warm handoff planning; Serving as recovery ambassadors within their organizations and communities; Participating in outreach, education, and feedback activities when appropriate.

Partners and Community Stakeholders: Partners and community stakeholders will support the plan by: Participating in feedback activities, surveys, listening sessions, and meetings; Sharing information about community needs and service gaps; Supporting community education and outreach; Helping identify resources related to recovery supports, sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention, treatment, and community services; Collaborating on initiatives that strengthen access, equity, and continuity of care.

Roles will continue to evolve through the Council’s continuous quality improvement process as priorities, resources, and community needs change.

Evaluation & Feedback

As part of its continuous quality improvement approach, CRCC, on behalf of the WS ROSC Council and in collaboration with members and stakeholders, will review communication, outreach, partner engagement, and strategic plan activities throughout FY26.

Evaluation will focus on whether FY26 activities are aligned with the longer-term FY26–FY28 strategic goals and whether the Council is making progress on identified annual priorities.

WS ROSC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL	COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH STRATEGY/ CC PLAN	MEASURES	TARGETS
G.1 WS ROSC Council	CC Plan: O.1 Use Zoom platform to hold monthly WS ROSC meetings, recovery events and activity calls to facilitate momentum of ROSC initiative and increase reach and impact in the community.	Expand monthly ROSC meeting attendance and types of participants	Identify new participants: 20% growth in membership,
		MOUs and Referral Linkage Agreements	10 new MOUs/referral linkages.
		Expand attendance at zoom-based activities and events	20% over FY-2025 baseline

G. 1 WS ROSC Council G. 2 Stigma/RR G. 3 RSS-Transport G. 4 Referral System	CC Plan: O.1, O.2 and O.3 Increase community outreach events to increase visibility of WS ROSC	Community outreach events Increase in Narcan trainings Increase access to CDPH Fentanyl	10 Community Events 25% increase in Narcan trainings 2 CDPH Fentanyl Kit Build Outs
G. 1 WS ROSC Council G. 2 Stigma/RR	CC Plan: O.3 Development of shared WS ROSC content via website and social media	Post updated information monthly	Share 1,000 Marketing Materials Stigma and Promoting RSS
G. 1 WS ROSC Council	CC Plan: O.1 Utilize new standard WS ROSC information dialogue	Develop and disseminate elevator speech for partners Conduct training /support to utilize materials	Implement by WS ROSC Council Leadership Team Conduct initial training by WS ROSC Council Leadership Team
G. 1 WS ROSC Council	CC Plan: O.1 Increase attendance at and participation of members of WS ROSC in monthly meetings	Utilize new standard ROSC meeting agenda Email/Post ROSC monthly meeting minutes Conduct invites and reminder phone calls Develop and manage monthly electronic invitation to members	Establish and e-mail/post agenda 2 days prior meeting E-mail and post minutes within 3 days. Baseline: FY-2026 Baseline: FY-2026
G. 1 WS ROSC Council	CC Plan: O.1.Educate stakeholders on WS ROSC accomplishments	Develop monthly WS ROSC accomplishments and post to website	Initiate first update by June 30, 2026.

FY26–FY28 WS ROSC Strategic Plan

Updated Strategic Plan FY26

Goal 1: Ongoing Support of the WS ROSC Council Through CRCC Leadership

Objective 1: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will strengthen meaningful partner engagement by identifying and engaging appropriate partners, sectors, and community voices connected to FY26 priorities, including stigma reduction, sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention, recovery supports, and warm handoffs.

Activity 1: CRCC will support monthly meetings of current Council members, partners, and community stakeholders to sustain participation and strengthen coordination.

Activity 2: CRCC will identify and conduct outreach to key organizations, people with lived experience, family members, providers, and stakeholders whose participation is connected to the Council’s FY26 priorities.

Activity 3: CRCC will maintain or update Council orientation materials and communication tools that clarify Council purpose, roles, expectations, and opportunities for engagement.

Activity 4: CRCC will develop and use tools described in the Communication and Community Outreach Plan to support partner participation, meeting engagement, and promotion of the WS ROSC Council.

Objective 2: By June 30, 2028, the WS ROSC Council will continue identifying resources, partnerships, and processes that support the long-term sustainability of Council activities.

Activity 1: CRCC will identify potential resources, partnerships, donations, grants, or community supports that can help maintain Council activities, meetings, website updates, outreach materials, and community education efforts.

Activity 2: CRCC will share sustainability opportunities with Council members and partners for discussion and planning.

Activity 3: CRCC and the Council will identify practical next steps to support sustainability of priority activities.

Objective 3: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will increase community awareness of the Council's role, priorities, and activities through consistent outreach, education, and communication.

Activity 1: Update and share WS ROSC Council public awareness messaging related to recovery, stigma reduction, sober housing, overdose prevention, transportation barriers, and warm handoffs.

Activity 2: Continue education on long-term recovery, stigma, stereotypes, recovery supports, and community-based recovery resources through Council meetings, website updates, social media, outreach materials, and community events.

Goal 2: Address Stigma and Increase Access to Sober Housing and Recovery Residences (Revised of FY26)

(Note: In the FY25 Westside ROSC Community Needs Survey, stigma, homelessness, and access to sober housing options were identified as critical issues impacting the vision of the WS ROSC of a fully integrated recovery-oriented system of care. As a result of this, the WS ROSC revised this goal with its objectives, activities, and measures to reflect this feedback and incorporate objectives in its WS CC Plan.)

Objective 1: By June 30, 2026, the WS ROSC Council will identify community challenges limiting access to sober housing and recovery residences.

Activity 1: Complete inventory of the current level of service capacity for recovery-oriented housing options within and across the WS Council membership

Activity 2: Conduct on-going assessment of current recovery-oriented housing through an inventory of current housing capacity, demand, challenges, etc. through listening sessions with current RR operators. (revised)

Activity 3: Deferred for FY26

Activity 4: Incorporated in Objective 4 below

Objective 2: By June 30, 2027, design a Recovery Residence Capacity Building Action Plan (Deferred for FY27)

Activity 1: CRCC, on behalf of the WS Council, will develop and facilitate a Recovery Residence Work Group (RRWG), to include WS Council members, recovery residence operators and interested community stakeholders.

Activity 2: Through the RRWG, identify 2 initial educational and capacity-building challenges spotlighted by WS Council members, recovery residence operators and community-focused listening sessions and develop an initial Action Plan to address these challenges

Objective 3: By July 1, 2027, implement at least one educational and one capacity-building activity from the Recovery Residence Capacity Building Plan (Deferred for FY28)

Activity 1: WS Council shall select one educational and one capacity-building activity, based on the recommendations of the RRWG and based on available resources.

Activity 2: RRWG, with the assistance of CRCC, shall launch and monitor the implementation of these educational and capacity building activities.

Objective 4: By June 30, 2026, increase recovery education, address stigma, and promote/ increase visibility of recovery supports through hosting 10 community recovery events and facilitating 1,000 shares of marketing materials on stigma and recovery support services through the WS ROSC website. (WS CC Plan-Objective 3)

Goal 3: Transportation for treatment and recovery services (Revised of FY26)

(Note: In the FY25 Westside ROSC Community Needs Survey, unequal access to harm reduction supports, including Narcan and Fentanyl testing strips, were identified as critical issues impacting the vision of the WS ROSC of a fully integrated recovery-oriented system of care. As a result of this, the WS ROSC revised this goal its objectives, activities and measures to reflect this feedback and incorporate objectives from its WS CC Plan.)

Objective 1: By June 30, 2026, expand harm reduction access and training by increasing the number of Narcan trainings by 25% over FY 2025 baseline and completing 2 CDPH Fentanyl Kit Build Outs. (WS CC Plan-Objective 2)

Objective 2: By June 30, 2026, complete an assessment of transportation issues (non-emergency) for persons and family members that impede access to treatment and recovery support services within the WS Council's ROSC service area. (Revised number)

Activity 1: Inventory current transportation needs and challenges experienced by WS Council members through an initial needs assessment

Activity 2: Conduct 2 community-focused listening sessions to gather community and stakeholder feedback regarding transportation challenges to treatment and recovery services. (deferred for FY 2026)

Activity 3: CRCC, on behalf of WS Council, shall research current best practices in addressing transportation issues for treatment and recovery services and report on finding quarterly. (completed in FY 2025)

Objective 3: By June 30, 2029, design a Transportation Action Plan for non-emergency transport to treatment and recovery services. (Deferred for FY29)

Activity 1: CRCC, on behalf of the WS Council, will develop and facilitate a Transportation Work Group (TWG), to include WS Council members, people in recovery, family members, and interested community stakeholders.

Activity 2: Through the TWG, identify 2 initial capacity-building challenges and develop an initial Action Plan to address these challenges

Goal 4: Establishing warm hand-offs between treatment organizations and recovery organizations (Referral System)

(Note: In the FY25 Westside ROSC Community Needs Survey, limited cross-sector collaboration across providers of recovery-oriented services was cited as a key challenge in increasing the knowledge of and access to community-based treatment and support services, limiting the vision of the WS ROSC of a fully integrated recovery-oriented system of care. As a result of this, the WS ROSC revised this goal, objectives, activities and measures to reflect this feedback and incorporate Objective 1 from its WS CC Plan.)

Objective 1: By June 30, 2026, complete an assessment of existing continuum of services within the WS Council's ROSC service area. (Completed for FY26 & Updated Annually)

Activity 1: Inventory current service providers within the WS ROSC service area, including service array, current capacity, waiting lists for services, eligibility and participation requirements and rules. Including formal and informal referral processes in place. (Updated annually and posted on WS ROSC website)

Activity 2: Assess current referral processes, protocols and wait times among WS Council member organizations. (WS CC Plan, Objective 1-Updated Referral Linkage Agreements)

Activity 3: Identify two most common referral challenges within the WS Council membership. (updated annually)

Activity 4: On behalf of the WS Council, CRCC shall research and report on the best practices on warm hand-offs. (Updated annually and posted on WS ROSC website)

Objective 2: By June 30, 2028, design a pilot WS Council Warm Hand Off Project. (Deferred for FY28)

Activity 1: CRCC, on behalf of the WS Council, will develop and facilitate a Warm Hand Off Work Group, to include WS Council members, people in recovery, family members, and interested community stakeholders.

Activity 2: Through this Work Group, identify a treatment organization and a recovery organization to design an Action Plan to launch a Warm Hand Off Project. The action plan will address funding, staffing, eligibility criteria, and processes and protocols for initial and subsequent (if necessary) handoffs.

Objective 3: By July 1, 2029, the WS ROSC Council will support implementation, review, or refinement of a warm handoff strategy based on partner capacity and available resources. (Deferred for FY29)

Activity 1: Launch or support a warm handoff strategy with identified partners.

Activity 2: Monitor implementation and gather feedback from participating organizations, individuals served, and family members when appropriate.

Activity 3: Review challenges, successes, and recommendations for improvement.

Three-Year Timeline (FY26–FY28)

FY26: Annual Priorities and Continued Implementation

- Continue recovery education and stigma-reduction messaging.
- Strengthen visibility of recovery support services across the West Side.
- Engage the right partners and community voices connected to identified priorities.
- Identify access gaps related to sober housing, transportation, overdose prevention, and recovery supports.
- Review referral practices and warm handoff barriers.
- Use FY26 activities to strengthen alignment with the full FY26–FY28 strategic plan.

FY27: Strengthening and Expansion of Priority Strategies

- Use FY26 findings to develop targeted action steps.
- Strengthen partner coordination around sober housing, transportation, and overdose prevention access.
- Develop or refine warm handoff processes.
- Expand stigma-reduction and recovery education strategies.
- Improve referral coordination among key partners.
- Use partner and community feedback to strengthen implementation.

FY28: Sustainability and System Improvement

- Develop or refine warm handoff processes.
- Strengthen long-term partner processes.
- Continue recovery education and stigma reduction.
- Support coordinated responses to access barriers.
- Use data, feedback, and partner input to improve the local recovery-oriented system of care.
- Identify strategies that can be maintained beyond the three-year planning period.

Conclusion

The WS ROSC Council FY26–FY28 Strategic Plan provides a focused and practical framework for continuing to strengthen recovery supports across Chicago’s West Side. As one of the early ROSC Councils, the WS ROSC Council is not beginning new work; it is building on years of outreach, education, partnership, recovery support, and community engagement.

FY26 will serve as an annual priority year focused on continued implementation, stronger alignment, and clearer connection between current activities and long-term goals. By focusing on stigma reduction, sober housing access, transportation barriers, overdose prevention resources, and warm handoffs, the Council will continue supporting a recovery-oriented system of care that is community-driven, peer-informed, and responsive to the needs of individuals and families seeking recovery.

The Council’s success will not be measured by numbers alone, but by the strength of the right partnerships, the quality of community engagement, and the progress made toward a more visible, accessible, and coordinated recovery support system across Chicago’s West Side.