

## **Strategic Plan FY26**

### **Douglas County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Council**

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**Lead Agency:** Hour House

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**Douglas County ROSC Council Mission:** Collaborating with one another to build and empower communities of recovery.

**Douglas County ROSC Council Vision:** A thriving, stigma-free community where every person affected by substance use and or mental health issues has the support, resources, and respect needed to achieve lasting recovery and reach their fullest potential.

### **Needs Assessment:**

#### **Demographics**

The rural community of Douglas County has a population of 34,331, including 9,084 school-aged youth (26.6%). It is served by five school districts, 22 public schools, and one community college. While there are no residential treatment facilities in the county, there is one outpatient provider offering substance use disorder (SUD) services.

Douglas County is predominantly White alone at 87%. Hispanics or Latinos account for 9.1%, African Americans 1.1%, Asians alone 0.9%, American Indians and Native Alaskans alone 0.5%, and two or more races 1.5% (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, July 2024).

Persons under the age of 5 years old account for 6.2%, ages 5-18 years old is 24.3%, ages 18-65 years old is 50.4%, and ages 65+ is 19.1%. Females account for 50.1% and males 49.9% of the population (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, July 2023).

The median household income is \$74,186, with the persons in poverty rate at 9% or 1833 people. The number of households for 2019-2023 is 7,821 with the average persons per household being 2.49 (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, 2019-2023).

From this, we can determine that the majority of those in Douglas County are White, between the ages of 18 and 65, with a median household income of \$74,186.

#### **Overdose Data**

From January 2, 2025 through December 22, 2025, Douglas County reported 2 fatal overdoses, compared to 2 fatal overdoses in 2024 and 1 in 2023. Because overdose counts are fewer than ten, specific numbers by category or age group are not released, and it is important to note that the total number of overdoses is likely underrepresented, as not all incidents are reported. In addition, individuals who needed medical attention would have gone to a hospital outside of Douglas County.

The Douglas County ROSC Council currently has 19 designated Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) sites throughout the county where free Narcan is available to anyone. Since July 1, 2025, 612 boxes of Narcan have been distributed. These boxes were offered not only at the sites but also at ROSC Council events, trainings, and always at our resource table during community events.

### **Douglas County Community Survey Results**

Community survey results show that residents of Douglas County view substance use as a significant local issue, with more than **83%** of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that substance use is a major concern. There is also substantial support for expanding education and stigma-reduction efforts: nearly **81%** believe that offering community-wide Narcan trainings and Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) education is necessary, and a majority expressed willingness to attend educational sessions on MAR and harm reduction. Community members who completed the survey overwhelmingly point to stigma, fear, and shame as major obstacles that prevent people from seeking help, along with a widespread belief that the community often denies or minimizes the problem. A Douglas County ROSC Council member who attended our community education session said, “This was great! I am glad I learned about Illinois MAR now!”.

Respondents strongly support increasing access to overdose prevention resources, with over **82%** agreeing that expanding DOPP sites would benefit the county. A community member who stopped at our resource table stated, “I am so glad you are here with Narcan today. I lost a friend.”

Housing remains a major barrier for people in recovery. Survey participants identified the most common challenges as having a **criminal record (79%)**, **high housing costs (75%)**, **lack of available housing (55%)**, **transportation barriers (62%)**, and experiences of **discrimination (49%)**. Reflecting these challenges, support for recovery and recovery/transitional housing is high: more than **85%** of respondents believe recovery/transitional housing would benefit individuals in recovery in their community. Survey participants noted in the comments that these factors make stable housing difficult to obtain.

The survey also indicates that most residents are familiar with the concept of Drug Court, with **75%** reporting they have heard of it. Public attitudes strongly favor treatment over incarceration for certain non-violent offenses involving individuals with substance use or mental health needs, with more than **82%** agreeing or strongly agreeing. Additionally, community members strongly support establishing a Drug Court in Douglas County: approximately **75%** believe the county would benefit from such a program.

Survey responses show a large majority of respondents believe that **people who use drugs (83%)** and **people with mental illness (93%)** deserve respect, reflecting a community attitude that counters stigma and supports compassion. However, this number is higher for those with mental illness. There is work to be done to decrease stigma and increase the number of people who respect people who use drugs. Opinions on Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) show that most respondents (about **67%**) recognize MAR as an effective treatment, yet many still experience barriers to accessing MAR locally—over **40%** agree or strongly agree that it is difficult to find healthcare providers offering these services in their community.

Overall, the data reflects an urgent need for expanded treatment access, transportation support, recovery housing, and stigma-reduction efforts in order to meet the community’s needs.

## Douglas County ROSC Council Outreach and Communication Plan

**Purpose:** This plan outlines how the Douglas 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 in-depth how the Douglas County ROSC Council will provide outreach to its community and implement the ROSC concept.

### Objectives:

- Increase the public awareness of Substance Use Disorder as a treatable condition
- Reduce stigma across sectors
- Promote the available treatment, recovery, and harm reduction resources
- Build credibility and visibility of the Council
- Strengthen internal communication within council partnerships
- Mobilize community members to support long term change
- Measure and report community process

### Target Audiences

Communication and outreach to the whole community are important for increasing the visibility of ROSC & progress on systemic change. During the next three years, the Douglas County ROSC Council has identified its main target audiences to be **persons with lived experience (PLE), faith-based organizations, family members of those affected by SUD, healthcare providers, businesses, service providers, and judicial** to increase the likelihood of local community change.

- **Persons with Live Experience:** To empower PLE to use their voices to help guide local change in the community.
- **Faith-based:** To increase the stewardship of like-minded organizations to enhance access to recovery resources and services.
- **Family of individuals affected by SUD:** To increase authentic and continuous support for families affected by SUD.
- **Healthcare:** To reduce gaps and barriers in services when assisting a person with SUD/Mental health (MH) disorders; to shift the perspective of healthcare providers in reference to SUD being a complex brain disorder.
- **Businesses:** To gain the support of local businesses to increase recovery capital & reduce stigma.
- **Service Providers:** To learn insights into barriers and strengthen the continuum of care.
- **Judicial:** To gain their support for Drug Court in Douglas County.

### Key Message

The Douglas 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.

**Douglas County ROSC Council Outreach Strategy, Audience, Timeline and Responsible Person (s)**

<b>Outreach Strategy</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible Person (s)</b>
E-mail communication with council members meeting reminder and meeting minutes	Key stakeholders, PLE	One week before a meeting. Within 72 hours after meeting.	ROSC Council Coordinator
Attend County Board Meetings	Key stakeholders	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator and ROSC Council Members
Attend local Chamber of Commerce events	Key stakeholders	Annually	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Members
Attend Transportation Meetings	Douglas County	As scheduled	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Attend DART Leadership Meetings	Key stakeholders	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator
Attend Douglas County Area Coalition Meetings	Douglas County	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Attend local recovery support open meetings	Douglas County SUD high risk individuals, PLEs	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Attend Area Coalition Meeting	Area agencies, service providers, key stakeholders	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Attend County Board Meeting	Local government, judicial, law enforcement	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Drug Court Team	Local government, judicial, law enforcement, service providers, SUD high risk individuals, PLEs	Monthly	ROSC County Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members, Persons with Lived Experience
Drug Overdose Prevention Sites (DOPP Sites)	Community members, families of PLEs, parents	Weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator & ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, Persons with Lived Experience
Jail Education Group Community Education Group	Douglas County Jail, Community members	Twice weekly and One time weekly	ROSC County Recovery Navigator
Free Laundry Events	Douglas County	At least four times per year	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Host community event (s) for Overdose Awareness/Recovery Month	Douglas County and surrounding areas	Annually in August and September	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, Council Members
Sober Family Fun Events	Douglas County	At least two events	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Social Media presence SUD/Recovery Education	New and returning followers	Weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator
Transitional Housing Subcommittee	Douglas County	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, Owner of Transitional House PJ's Place-Linda, ROSC Council and Subcommittee Members
Anti-Stigma Campaign	Douglas County & surrounding areas	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, Supervisor
Social Media presence-promote recovery navigator education	Douglas County SUD high risk individuals and their family	Twice a month	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
County Chronical Newspaper presence. Press Release in local newspapers to promote ROSC events and or initiatives	Douglas County	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator

Create ROSC Council Newsletter (email, in person, social media)	Douglas County	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator
Resource Folders	Douglas County	As meetings occur	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
STYLE (Strength Through Your Lived Experience) Subcommittee	Douglas County, PLEs, families of Person's with Lived Experience	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Members, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator

### **Evaluation & Feedback**

The communication and outreach of the ROSC Council will be evaluated by studying our social media statistics, tracking attendance at meetings and ROSC hosted events, and analyze all of our community survey data. Short satisfaction surveys will be completed at our community events and education events.

### **Douglas County ROSC Council Goals, Objectives, & Outcome Measures**

**Goal One: Assist Douglas County in the exploration and start the development of a Drug Court by June 30, 2026.**

#### **Objectives/Strategies Year one:**

- Convene a development meeting with Douglas County key stakeholders to discuss the purpose, benefits, and feasibility of a drug court by November 30, 2025. (Completed)
- Assist Douglas County in the exploration of potential funding sources for the implementation of a Drug Court program beginning December 30, 2025. (Ongoing)
- Support the development of a Drug Court team and clearly define member roles and responsibilities by January 31, 2026. (Completed)
- Hold and participate in monthly Drug Court team meetings to guide planning, decision-making, and readiness efforts. (Ongoing)
- Connect with key stakeholders from neighboring counties with established Drug Courts to learn from their implementation experiences by April 30, 2026.
- Invite four drug court graduates from other counties to share their experience with the Drug Court team by May 31, 2026.
- Attend at least two of the neighboring counties Drug Court Sessions to observe court operations and participant engagement by June 30, 2026.

#### **Progress Achieved:**

- The ROSC Council Coordinator attended meetings with key stakeholders resulting in formation of a Drug Court team.
- Necessary roles have been identified and assigned on the Drug Court team.
- One Drug Court graduate from a neighboring county shared their lived experience and program impact with the Drug Court team at a meeting.
- Drug Court grant funding opportunities were identified and was shared with the Drug Court Team.

- The ROSC Council Coordinator attended a regular Drug Court session and graduation in Coles County to observe structure and process.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue to participating in monthly Drug Court team meetings to support planning and coordination.
- Connect with one or more neighboring county (other than Coles County) to learn about their Drug Court program structure and implementation process.
- Attend at least one additional Drug Court session in a neighboring county to further observe operations and participant engagement. Schedule and plan additional Drug Court graduate speakers to provide lived experience.
- Continue identifying and sharing funding opportunities to support Drug Court implementation.

**Outputs/Outcome Measures Year one:**

- Number of Drug Court Team meetings held and attended.
- Number of Drug Court graduates who share their lived experience with the Drug Court Team
- Number of Drug Court sessions and graduations observed in neighboring counties.
- Documentation of identified funding opportunities and readiness milestones achieved toward Drug Court development.

**Year Three: Douglas County will officially adopt the Drug Court model, with one fully developed Drug Court program ready for implementation by June 30, 2028.**

**Objectives/Strategies (By the end of year three):**

- Host a community panel presentation featuring at least five Drug Court graduates by June 30, 2027, to increase community awareness and reduce stigma.
- Assist the Drug Court Team in defining eligibility criteria and a formal referral process by June 30, 2027.
- Assist the Drug Court Team with defining the program phases, incentives, sanctions, and graduation criteria by June 30, 2027.
- Support the acceptance of the first two participants into the Douglas County Drug Court program by June 30, 2028.
- Continue one-on-one meetings with law enforcement, community stakeholders and any others to identify barriers to establishing a Drug Court and develop targeted solutions that address stigma, resource concerns, and lack of education about drug court August 31, 2026. (Ongoing)

**Outcome Measures:**

- Number of community members attending the Drug Court panel
- Host a panel presentation.
- Panel participant and attendee feedback collected through surveys or discussion summaries.
- Number of Drug Court Team meetings held annually.

- Completion of finalized Drug Court programming including eligibility, referral process, phases, incentives, sanctions, and graduation.
- Number of Drug Court participants accepted into the Drug Court program.

**Goal 2: Expanding MAR and Harm Reduction Access and Education in the community by June 30, 2026.**

**Objectives/Strategies for Year one:**

- Host at least one community education session focused on MAR and harm reduction strategies, including benefits, by December 30, 2025. (Completed)
- Develop at least two additional DOPP site locations to expand geographic access to harm reduction materials by April 30, 2026.
- Host an additional community education session focused on MAR and harm reduction strategies, including the purpose and benefits by May 31, 2026.
- Continue ongoing distribution of Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips and harm reduction materials, to increase community access to overdose prevention tools through June 30, 2026.
- Host at least two Narcan trainings for community members by June 30, 2026.
- Utilize the Douglas County ROSC Facebook page to share harm reduction education, county wide DOPP sites, and training announcements at least every other month beginning January 2026, through May 31, 2026 to increase community awareness and engagement.
- administer pre- and post-event surveys for community education sessions and Narcan trainings to assess changes in knowledge, awareness, and confidence by June 30, 2026.

**Progress Achieved:**

- Hosted one community session on MAR and harm reduction strategies.
- A local MAR provider presented at the ROSC Council Meeting on the topic to provide information to ROSC Council members.
- Harm reduction information, Narcan access locations, and ROSC event announcements have been consistently shared through the Douglas County ROSC Facebook page.

**Next Steps:**

- Develop an additional two DOPP sites to further expand Narcan access in Douglas County.
- Continue distribution Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips and other harm reduction materials.
- Plan and host a second community education session focused on MAR and harm reduction to address concerns and bring awareness to the community.
- Plan and host a two community Narcan trainings.
- Implement pre- and post-surveys at all education sessions and trainings to inform future outreach and education strategies.

**Outputs/Outcome Measures Year one:**

- Number of new DOPP sites developed.
- Number of boxes of Narcan distributed.
- Number of Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips distributed.

- Participant feedback and survey results from community education sessions focused on MAR and harm reduction. Number of Narcan trainings conducted and number of participants trained.
- Number of Facebook posts on the Douglas County ROSC Council page related to MAR and harm reduction education.

**Year Three: Expanding MAR and Harm Reduction Access and Education in the community by adding five DOPP sites and hosting two community education sessions/education outreach events and two pop-up recovery events by June 30, 2028.**

**Objectives/Strategies (By end of Year 3):**

- Develop two additional DOPP sites in locations other than the City of Tuscola by June 30, 2027.
- Host at least one additional education outreach event focusing on both MAR and harm reduction services by December 31, 2027.
- Organize at least two pop-up recovery events in collaboration with local businesses and healthcare partners to provide MAR education and distribute harm reduction materials to underserved areas by end of April 30, 2028.
- Host one additional education outreach event focusing on both MAR and harm reduction services by May 31, 2028.
- Develop three additional DOPP sites in locations other than the City of Tuscola by June 30, 2028.
- Increase community access to overdose prevention tools by distributing over 500 doses of Narcan and over 100 fentanyl test strips through partnerships with local businesses, pharmacies, and MAR providers by end of June 30, 2028.
- Implement pre- and post-event surveys at all education sessions, outreach events, and pop-up recovery events to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and community confidence related to MAR and harm reduction starting January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. (Ongoing)

**Outcome Measures:**

- Number of community education sessions conducted.
- Number of pop up recovery events conducted.
- Number of participants attending education sessions and recovery events.
- Number of Narcan doses distributed throughout the community.
- Number of Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips distributed.
- Pre- and post-survey results from education sessions and events demonstrating changes in knowledge, attitudes, and confidence regarding MAR and harm reduction.
- Douglas County ROSC Council Community Survey data measuring perceived availability and access to Narcan and MAR services.

**Goal 3: Explore Recovery Housing in Douglas County through June 30, 2026.**

**Objectives/Strategies for year one:**

- Douglas County ROSC Council will establish a transitional housing subcommittee and hold monthly meetings by July 1, 2025 (Completed and Ongoing)

- Be BRAVE a local nonprofit will purchase a property (PJ's Place) to be a new transitional house for men by July 31, 2025. (Completed)
- Work with Be Brave to establish or strengthen peer-support networks and sober activities connected to the transitional house by August 1, 2025. (Completed and Ongoing)
- Once purchased the transitional house will have a social media presence to help make community aware of the project by August 1, 2025. (Completed)
- Help create and distribute a brochure about the new transitional house for men (PJ's Place) brochure August 31, 2025. (Completed)
- Be BRAVE will apply for opioid funds through the county by August 31, 2025. (Completed)
- Assist with the creation and edits of the intake form and house guidelines for PJ's Place by April 30th, 2026.
- Prepare a resource packet for the transitional housing facility—including local meeting lists, transportation options, ROSC brochures, and social service contacts—to provide upon opening by May 1, 2026.
- Continue to make the public aware of the ROSC Transitional Housing Subcommittee and PJ's Place through social media, word of mouth, presentations, distributing brochures, etc. starting January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. (Ongoing).

#### **Progress Achieved**

- Be BRAVE has purchased a property (PJ's Place)
- Established Transitional Housing Subcommittee and holding regular meetings
- PJ's Place has a social media presence - Facebook and Instagram
- Awarded opioid funds were received
- First draft of the Intake form and House Rules have been produced
- Shared at ROSC meeting and on Facebook about Volunteer day and other opportunities at PJ's Place

#### **Next Steps:**

- Continue to facilitate monthly meetings of the ROSC Transitional Housing Subcommittee
- Continue to search grant opportunities
- Transitional housing subcommittee supporting Be BRAVE in ideas for renovations to property with opioid funds received
- Assist Be BRAVE in finalizing the edits of the Intake form and House Rules

#### **Outputs/Outcome Measures Year One:**

- Number of Transitional Housing Subcommittee meetings
- Douglas County ROSC Council Community Survey data
- Feedback from volunteers at PJ's Place
- The house rules and intake forms are complete and ready for use

**Year Three: Assist in exploration and the startup of Recovery Housing in Douglas County by June 30, 2028.**

**Objective/Strategies (By end of Year 3):**

- Continue to add to and update the resource packet for the transitional housing facility—including local meeting lists, transportation options, ROSC Council brochures, and social service contact May 1, 2027.
- Engage community partners (landlords, housing authorities, recovery homes) to identify additional housing leads and explore collaborating on and promoting transitional housing expansion by June 30, 2027.
- Assist Be Brave in identifying and applying for at least two additional funding sources, such as local, state, or national grants, or community foundation opportunities by June 30, 2027.
- Continue to attend and help facilitate ROSC Transitional Housing Subcommittee meetings monthly with key stakeholders through July 1, 2028. (Ongoing)
- Work with Be Brave to establish or strengthen peer-support networks and sober activities connected to the transitional house through July 1, 2028. (Ongoing)
- Continue to update the resource packet for the transitional housing facility—including local meeting lists, transportation options, ROSC Council brochures, and social service contacts. July 31, 2028. (Ongoing)

**Outcome Measures:**

- Number of ROSC Transitional Housing Subcommittee meetings held and attended.
- Number of Facebook posts promoting PJ's Place and the transitional housing project.
- Number of residents served at PJ's Place.
- Total number of grants awarded and fundraising events conducted to support PJ's Place.  
Number of peer support activities implemented at PJ's Place.