

Strategic Plan FY26

Edgar County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Council

Lead Agency: Hour House

Dated Revised: 12.19.2025

Contacts: Nicki Hanks, ROSC Council Coordinator, nickih@hourhousercovery.org

Jenna Hays, ROSC Program Supervisor, jennah@hourhousercovery.org

Edgar County ROSC Council Mission Statement

The Edgar County ROSC Council builds strong community partnerships to support individuals and families affected by substance use and mental health disorders. Guided by lived experience, we collaborate with local agencies to connect people with resources throughout their recovery journey.

Edgar County ROSC Council Vision

Edgar County working together to build a safer, stronger, and healthier community that supports multiple pathways of recovery for families.

Needs Assessment

Demographics

Leadership Center Agency:	Hour House
Type of Report:	Community Needs Assessment- Edgar County
Setting:	Rural
Total Number of Residents:	16,334
Number of School-aged Youth:	2,626 in public schools and 96 in private schools; a total of 2,722 school-aged youth
Total Number of Schools:	13 public schools and 1 private school
Total Number of Institutions of Higher Learning:	0
Total Number of Treatment Facilities:	1
Total Number of Coalitions/ROSC Councils:	2 Coalitions, 1 ROSC Council

Edgar County is predominantly White alone at 97.1%. Hispanics or Latinos accounts for 2.7%, African Americans for 0.9%, Asian alone for 0.4%, American Indians and Native Alaskans alone for 0.0%, and two or more races for 1.1% (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, 2024).

Persons under the age of 5 years old account for 4.7%, ages 5-18 years old 19.6%, ages 19- 64 years old 50.8%, and ages 65+ are 24.9% (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, *Edgar County, IL, 2024*). Females account for 50.9% of the population and males 49.1% (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts).

The median household income is \$56,909, with the persons in poverty rate at 12% or 1,946 people (*Illinois State Poverty Percentage Map, Illinois Extension*). The number of households for 2019-2023 is 7,612, with an average number of persons per household being 2.13 (United States Census Bureau QuickFacts, 2024).

Based on this data, it can be determined that most of the population in Edgar County is White, with an average income of \$56,909, and is between the ages of 18-65 years old.

The Edgar County Coroner, Scott Barrett, reports three overdose deaths in Edgar County from July 2024 through December 2025. He also notes that this number may not reflect the actual total, as some individuals are transferred to Carle Hospital in Champaign-Urbana or to hospitals in Indianapolis. In those cases, the overdose deaths are recorded in those counties instead. Horizon Health EMS reported responding to 14 overdose calls since July 2024. Additionally, 300 boxes of Narcan and 100 Fentanyl test strips have been distributed in the last year.

Edgar County has several community-based resources supporting mental health, substance use recovery, and basic needs; however, the FY26 Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey shows that residents experience significant gaps in **how individuals' access, navigate, and sustain connections to these services**. While services exist, the absence of coordinated care transitions, limited visibility of harm-reduction resources, and barriers to employment undermine recovery outcomes across the county.

A primary gap identified is the **lack of a coordinated Warm Handoff Program** to connect individuals from hospitals and emergency settings directly into treatment and recovery supports. Survey data shows that 35.7% of respondents do not know where to access substance use treatment, 25.4% do not know how to access mental health services, and 28.5% are unaware of recovery support meetings. Community members noted that individuals often leave medical settings without clear next steps, stating that “people want help but don’t know where to go after the hospital.” Although respondents overwhelmingly agreed that a Warm Handoff Program would improve recovery outcomes, Edgar County currently lacks a standardized system to ensure timely connection to care.

Another significant gap relates to **harm reduction access and education**. While many respondents agree that harm-reduction tools such as Narcan and Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) are effective, survey responses indicate these services are difficult to locate or inconsistently available. Many participants reported personal or secondhand experience with overdose-related emergencies, reinforcing the need for expanded harm-reduction visibility. Qualitative responses emphasized that “people don’t know where to get Narcan until it’s too late,” highlighting a disconnect between community support for harm reduction and actual access to services.

The survey also identifies **employment as a critical barrier to long-term recovery**, directly supporting the need for second chance hiring initiatives. More than half of respondents (52.5%) reported that they or someone they know has faced challenges finding employment due to substance use history or criminal justice involvement, and respondents strongly agreed that the community should actively promote second chance hiring. Community members repeatedly shared that “no one wants to hire us because of our past,” and that stable employment, routine, and purpose are essential to maintaining recovery. Without intentional employer engagement and workforce pathways, individuals remain vulnerable to relapse and instability.

Together, these gaps demonstrate that Edgar County’s recovery challenges are less about the absence of services and more about **connection, access, and sustainability**. Addressing Warm Handoff coordination, harm reduction access and education, and second chance hiring will directly strengthen recovery pathways and improve outcomes for individuals and families across the county.

Edgar County ROSC Council Outreach & Communication Plan

Purpose: The Edgar 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 Edgar County ROSC Council will provide outreach to its community and implement the ROSC concept.

Objectives

- Reduce stigma across key stakeholder sectors.
- Promote available treatment, recovery, and harm-reduction resources.
- Build the Edgar County ROSC Council credibility and visibility.
- Strengthen internal communication across the Edgar 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 & progress on systemic change. During the next three years, the Edgar 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 substance use disorder (SUD), healthcare, businesses, and substance use providers** to increase the likelihood of local community change.

- **Persons with Live Experience:** To empower PLEs to use their voices to guide local change in the community.
- **Faith-based organizations:** 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/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.
- **Substance Use Providers:** Improve collaboration with providers to expand screening and ensure timely referrals for early intervention.

Key Message

The Edgar 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.

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

Channel	Audience	Frequency	Responsible person(s)
Email, phone, text with Council members	Primarily Service Providers, Youth-Serving Agencies, SUD Treatment, PLEs, Law	Weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator

	Enforcement, Local Government, Faith-Based, Judicial, Recovery Supports		
ROSC Council meeting	Primarily service providers, youth-serving agencies, SUD Treatment, PLEs, Law Enforcement, Local Government, Faith-Based, Judicial, Recovery Supports, Faith-Based	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Narcan Training	Community members, Businesses, Judicial, Community Organizations	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, Volunteers from ROSC Council.
Second Chance Hiring Committee meeting	PLEs, Education, Treatment Providers	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator will email out to Committee & Council
1:1 meeting with key stakeholders	All sectors but focus on target audience	2 days/week	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Committee members
Edgar County ROSC Council Facebook page	Community Members; PLEs, PLE families, Service Providers	3 posts/week	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Community free laundry days	PLEs, Families of PLEs, Unhoused, Subsidized Housing Recipients	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, volunteers from ROSC Council & other stakeholders, PLEs
Local community events	Community Members; Service Providers	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Local coalition meetings	Healthcare	Monthly (depending on frequency of meeting dates)	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Government board meetings	Local Government, Judicial, Law Enforcement	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Peer-led Recovery Wellness groups	PLEs, Community Members	1 day/week	ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Anti-Stigma Campaign (newspaper & social media)	Community Members, Media	Monthly	Hour House ROSC Council Coordinators
ROSC Concept presentations with key stakeholders	PLEs, Faith-Based, Family members of those affected by SUD, Healthcare, Businesses, Education	4x per FY26	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council members
ROSC Council Resource folders	PLEs, Service Providers, Law Enforcement, Faith-Based, Businesses	Each stakeholder meeting, each peer meeting	ROSC Council Coordinator and/or ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council members
ROSC Council Newsletter (email & social media)	Council Members & Community Members	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator & ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Peer led Recovery-oriented events	Community Members; PLEs, PLE Families	2x/year quarter	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Volunteer at other organization or agency events	Civic Organizations, Youth-Serving Organization, Faith-Based, Service Providers	2x/month (as events arise)	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Drug Overdose Prevention (DOPP) sites	Community Members; Families of PLEs, PLEs	Weekly	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Focus groups	PLEs	Yearly	ROSC Council Coordinator & ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Recovery Picnic	All Sectors	Annually in September	ROSC Council Coordinator, ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Candle Light Vigil-Overdose	All Sectors	Annually in August	ROSC Council Coordinator,

Awareness Event			ROSC Council Recovery Navigator, ROSC Council Members
Community Addiction Response and Education Coalition Meetings	Healthcare	Monthly	ROSC Council Coordinator & Recovery Navigator
The Prairie Press (Local Newspaper)	community members, local employers, service providers, and stakeholders	Quarterly	ROSC Council Coordinator

Evaluation and Feedback

The communication and outreach of the Edgar County ROSC Council will be evaluated based on social media analytics, the number of community event attended and hosted, number of harm reduction trainings hosted, number of 1:1 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 families attending free laundry days, Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey data, number of focus groups to collect qualitative data, number of sectors represented on the Council, retention rate of Council, timeliness of completing goals, survey of Council progress.

Edgar County ROSC Council Goals, Objectives, & Outcome Measures

Goal 1: To support the development of a Hospital-Based Warm Hand-Off Program, the Edgar County ROSC Council will complete planning, partner engagement, and preparatory activities necessary for implementation by June 30th, 2026.

Objectives FY26:

- The Edgar County ROSC Coordinator will coordinate an initial meeting with Horizon Health to discuss the feasibility and interest in a Warm Hand-off Program by August 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will create 50 overdose resource bags for Horizon Health EMS to distribute when responding to overdose-related calls by October 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will gather data from the FY26 Community Survey in related to awareness, needs, and perceptions for a Warm Hand-off Program by December 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will meet with Gateway Foundation to discuss roles, referral pathways, and implementation considerations of a Warm Handoff Program by February 28th, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will meet with Horizon Health and the Hour House Leadership by March 30th, 2026, to further define collaboration referral processes, and next steps for the development of a Warm Hand-off Program. (Ongoing)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will attend at least two webinars focused on Hospital-based Warm Hand-off Program implementation to gather best practices and implementation strategies by May 30th, 2026.
- The Edgar ROSC Council Coordinator will create a presentation for local hospital staff highlighting the purpose and benefits of a Warm Hand-off Program by June 30th, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will develop pre- and post-training surveys to assess hospital staff knowledge, attitudes, and confidence related to Warm Hand-offs, harm reduction, and referral processes by June 30, 2026.

Progress achieved

- Gathered data from the FY26 Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey related to Warm Hand-off Program needs and perceptions.
- An initial conversation was held with Horizon Health leadership to introduce the Warm Hand-off concept and assess interest in program development.
Created 50 overdose resource bags for Horizon Health EMS for distribution during overdose-related calls, supporting harm reduction and connection to services.

Next Steps

- Attend webinars focused on hospital-based warm hand-off programs to gather best practices and implementation strategies,
- Schedule and conduct a meeting with Gateway Foundation to discuss implementation of a warm-hand off program.
- Meet with Horizon Health and Hour House Leadership team to further define program structure, identify next steps, and strengthen cross-agency collaboration. Develop and deliver a presentation for local hospital staff highlighting the benefits of a warm hand-off program.

- Continue to make overdose resource bags for Horizon Health EMS to distribute during overdose related calls.
- Develop and finalize pre- and post-training surveys to evaluate hospital staff learning outcomes related to warm hand-off implementation.

Outcomes Measures

- Pre- and post-training survey results to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and confidence regarding warm hand-offs, harm reduction, and referral processes.
- Number of overdose resource bags distributed to EMS staff responding to overdoses.
- Number of formal meetings held with Horizon Health, Hour House leadership, and other partners to advance program implementation.

Year 3: Horizon Health, in partnership with the Hour House leadership team, will implement a fully established Warm Hand-Off Program in the Emergency Department by June 30th, 2028.

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- The Edgar County ROSC Council will collaborate with Horizon Health and Hour House to create standardized referral forms, resource guides, and patient education materials for use in the ER warm hand-off process by FY27.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will provide quarterly educational trainings for hospital staff, including new hires, focusing on warm hand-off procedures, harm reduction principles, and stigma reduction in FY27/28.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will hold quarterly meetings with Horizon Health, Hour House, and recovery partners to review program data, share best practices, and refine processes.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will assist Horizon Health in establishing a tracking system to monitor patients referred to recovery services, aiming to increase engagement within 48 hours of discharge by FY28.

Long Term Outcome Measures

- Percentage of patients successfully connected to recovery services within 48 hours of emergency discharge.
- Pre- and post-training survey results demonstrating changes in hospital staff knowledge, confidence, and attitudes related to warm hand-offs, harm reduction, and stigma reduction.
- Qualitative feedback from hospital staff and recovery partners on program usefulness, workflow integration, and areas for improvement.
- Documented implementation milestones achieved, such as completed training sessions, presentations delivered, and partnership agreements formalized.

Goal 2: The ROSC Council will strengthen second-chance hiring opportunities in Edgar County by engaging local employers, building partnerships, and providing employment-readiness supports for justice-impacted individuals by June 30th, 2026.

Objectives FY26:

- Create a Second Chance Hiring committee of ROSC council members to take action steps towards this goal by November 30th, 2025. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will gather and analyze data from the FY26 Edgar County Community Council Community Survey to assess community perceptions, barriers, and

opportunities related to Second Chance Hiring for justice-impacted individuals, and will use the findings to inform employer engagement and partnership strategies by December 30, 2026.

(Completed)

- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will develop a list of local businesses offering second-chance hiring by December 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will also continue to update a comprehensive list of local businesses offering second chance-employment throughout FY26. (Ongoing)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will set up meetings with six local employers to discuss second-chance hiring opportunities by March 31st, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Coordinator, in partnership with the Human Resource Center (HRC), will host a Second Chance Hiring Fair/Workshop by April 30th, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will partner with community stakeholders to host training sessions on resume building and an expungement and sealing clinic by May 31st, 2026 (Complete)

Progress achieved

- Created a Second Chance Hiring Committee.
- Gathered data from the FY26 Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey in related to second-chance hiring perceptions and barriers.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator completed four local employer meetings to discuss second-chance hiring opportunities and employer needs.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator has created a list of all current local Second Chance Employers.
- Hosted a resume building workshop.
- Hosted a sealing and expungement clinic in collaboration with Lincoln Land Legal Aid.

Next Steps

- Increase media engagement by promoting second-chance hiring opportunities through social media platforms to reach a broader audience.
- Host a Second-Chance Hiring Fair/Workshop in partnership with HRC to connect job seekers with supportive employers.
- Schedule two meetings with local employers to discuss Second-Chance hiring opportunities.
- Continue monitoring and updating the comprehensive list of local businesses offering second-chance employment to ensure accuracy and accessibility for the community.
- Develop and distribute employer and participant feedback surveys to evaluate engagement efforts and inform future strategies.

Outcomes Measures

- Documentation of the Second Chance Hiring Committee action steps will be tracked using meeting notes and follow-up items to ensure progress between meetings.
- The Second-Chance Hiring Committee will create a document for both employer and employee feedback.
- Track the number of attendees and participation in Second Chance Hiring fair and workshops.
- Number of Number of local employers identified and listed as Second-chance Employers. Number of second chance employment resource lists distributed throughout the community.

Year 3: Ten individuals in Edgar County will have successfully obtained employment through the Second Chance Hiring Initiative, and fifteen local employers will indicate their willingness to consider second-chance applicants by June 30th, 2028.

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will further enhance media outreach by assisting individuals in recovery to share success stories who have secured employment, as well as our second-chance employers to share their stories by December 30th, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will assist in hosting a job fair in FY27 and FY28.
- Five individuals will obtain employment through the Second Chance Hiring Initiative by June 30th, 2027.
- At least eight local employers will indicate their willingness to consider second-chance applicants, as measured through employer surveys, documented meetings, or participation in second-chance hiring events by June 30th, 2027.
- At least seven additional local employers will indicate their willingness to consider second-chance applicants, as measured through employer surveys, documented meetings, or participation in second-chance hiring events by June 30th, 2028.
- At least an additional five individuals will obtain employment through the Second Chance Hiring Initiative by June 30th, 2028.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will continue to update the list of all Second Chance Hiring opportunities in Edgar County in FY27/FY28.

Long Term Outcome Measures

- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will hold quarterly meetings with local employers and PLEs to gather feedback in FY27 and FY28.
- Employers' willingness to consider second-chance applicants will be measured through pre- and post-surveys administered at a minimum of two employer engagement activities each year in FY27 and FY28, with survey responses tracked over time to demonstrate increased awareness and commitment to hiring justice-impacted individuals.
- Document an increase in the number of local employers implementing second-chance hiring policies or formal guidelines by FY28.
- Increase employer participation in ROSC-hosted job fairs and recovery-friendly hiring initiatives by at least 50% from the FY26 baseline by the end of FY28.
- Number of second chance employment resource lists distributed in the community.

Goal 3: The Edgar County ROSC Council will expand community access to harm reduction resources and education by reducing stigma, increasing Narcan and fentanyl awareness, and building partnerships with local organizations and DOPP sites by June 30th, 2026.

Objectives FY26:

- The Edgar County ROSC Council will track and document Narcan distribution data through DOPP sites to monitor community reach and access beginning July 1st, 2025 and continue monthly.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will host a community-wide training, focusing on reducing stigma surrounding Harm-reduction by August 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will create a flyer containing all of Edgar County's

Narcan DOPP site locations by December 30th, 2025. (Completed)

- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will partner with Edgar County Health Department to place Needle Exchange cards at each DOPP site by December 30th, 2025. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will collect and analyze community survey data to inform harm reduction planning and stakeholder engagement by December 30th, 2025. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will collect and analyze community survey data to assess local awareness, perceptions, and needs related to harm reduction by December 30th, 2025. (Complete)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will create a flier of local harm reduction resources by January 31st, 2026. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will add three new DOPP sites in Edgar County by May 30th, 2026. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council will distribute 100 fentanyl test strips to community members as part of harm reduction outreach efforts by May 30th, 2026. (Completed)
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator and Recovery Navigator will host Narcan Training for three local organizations by June 30th, 2026.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council Coordinator will administer pre- and post-training surveys for all community and Narcan trainings to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, stigma, and confidence related to harm reduction and overdose response by June 30, 2026.

Progress Achieved

- The Edgar County ROSC Council has added three new DOPP sites in Edgar County.
- The Edgar County ROSC Council, in partnership with Champaign County Health Department, has hosted an “Understanding Harm Reduction” training in Edgar County.
- The ROSC Council has created a local MAR provider flyer to place in resource folders and at each DOPP Site, and has shared the flyer on social media.
- The ROSC Council has distributed 100 Fentanyl test strips within Edgar County.
- Through the Narcan DOPP sites, the ROSC Council has distributed 213 boxes of Narcan throughout Edgar County since July 1, 2025.
- Gathered data from the FY26 Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey in reference to this project for stakeholders.

Next Steps

- Host a community-wide training focused on understanding and reducing different types of stigma related to substance use.
- Conduct Narcan training sessions for three local organizations by June 30th, 2026, to expand overdose response capacity.
- Continue tracking and evaluating Narcan distribution and DOPP site usage to measure community reach and inform future harm reduction strategies.

Outcomes Measures

- Pre- and post-training survey results demonstrating changes in community knowledge, attitudes, and stigma related to harm reduction and overdose prevention. Community surveys to gauge awareness of local harm reduction resources.
- Keep a live document to track changes in overdose rates in Edgar County.
- Keep a log of all Narcan and Fentanyl test strips distributed in Edgar County.

Year Three: Community survey results will show a 50% decrease in the number of people who do not know where to find harm reduction resources in FY28.

Long Term Objectives FY27/28

- ROSC Council will hold a week-long harm reduction social media campaign in FY27 and FY28.
- ROSC Council will add 3 DOPP sites per year in FY27 and FY28.
- ROSC Council Coordinator and ROSC Council Recovery Navigator will host 12 Narcan trainings by June 30th, 2028.
- The ROSC Council will host a minimum of three educational trainings across FY27 and FY28 focused on reducing stigma surrounding harm reduction and supporting individuals who utilize harm reduction services, by June 30, 2028.

Long Term Outcome Measures

- Community surveys to gauge awareness of local harm reduction resources
- Number of attendees at each Narcan training held throughout FY27 and FY28.
- Number of attendees at each Harm Reduction training held throughout FY27 and FY28.
- Engagement analytics from the week-long harm reduction social media campaigns conducted in FY27 and FY28 (reach, shares, comments, and overall visibility).