



FY26 Strategic Plan
Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council
December 31, 2025
ROSC Coordinator - Jacob Albers
Lead Agency - Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery



Council Mission: The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC will coordinate providers and to prevent service duplication and to utilize all our community providers and resources to the maximum benefit of people seeking recovery from substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues.

Council Vision: The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council will engage community partnerships, collaborations to reduce stigma and ensure effective service delivery.

Needs Assessment:

Demographics of Survey Respondents

A total of **173 respondents** completed the survey. The demographic characteristics of respondents are summarized below.

Age

Respondents represented a broad range of age groups, with the largest proportion falling between **25 and 54 years old**.

- **35–44 years:** 53 respondents (30.6%)
- **45–54 years:** 38 respondents (21.9%)
- **25–34 years:** 34 respondents (19.6.%)
- **55–64 years:** 20 respondents (11.5%)
- **18–24 years:** 11 respondents (6.3%)
- **65 and over:** 9 respondents (5.2%)
- **Under 18:** 7 respondents

Gender

The majority of respondents identified as female.

- **Female:** 120 respondents (69.3%)
- **Male:** 51 respondents (29.4%)
- **Prefer not to identify:** 2 respondents

Race

Most respondents identified as White/Caucasian, with representation from several racial groups.

- **Caucasian / White:** 126 respondents (72.8%)
- **Native American:** 20 respondents (11.5%)
- **African American / Black:** 13 respondents (7.5%)
- **Two or more races:** 5 respondents (2.8%)
- **Asian:** 1 respondent (.5%)
- **Pacific Islander:** 1 respondent (.5%)
- **No response:** 4 respondents

Ethnicity

Most respondents identified as Non-Hispanic.

- **Non-Hispanic:** 144 respondents (83.2%)
- **Hispanic or Latino:** 23 respondents (13.2%)
- **No response:** 4 respondents

Income Level

Household income varied, with the largest group reporting middle-income ranges.

- **\$50,000–\$99,999:** 52 respondents (30%)
- **\$25,000–\$49,999:** 44 respondents (25.4%)
- **Under \$24,999:** 29 respondents (16.7%)
- **\$100,000 and over:** 11 respondents (6.3%)
- **Prefer not to say:** 34 respondents (19.6%)

Primary Language

- **English:** 173 respondents

• Community demographics (population, race/ethnicity, poverty level, etc.).

Ogle County has an estimated population of 50,000, with a predominantly White demographic and smaller racial and ethnic communities. DeKalb County, with a population of 105,160 (2020 Census), has experienced an 18.2% increase since 2000.

Demographic Ogle County Dekalb County

Population (2020) ~51.8k ~55.7k

Median Age ~42 years ~44.4 years

% White (2020) ~86% ~85.8%

% Hispanic or Latino ~11.2% ~12.8%

Median Household Income ~\$79k ~\$64.5k

Poverty Rate ~9–10% ~12.1%

Rural/Urban Primarily rural (~68%) Slightly more urban (~56%)

- **Overdose data from the service area.**

While county-level overdose data is limited, statewide trends reflect a growing crisis. In 2022, Illinois reported 3,261 opioid overdose deaths—an 8.2% increase from the prior year—with fentanyl involved in 84% of cases. The statewide opioid overdose mortality rate reached 26 per 100,000. Rural communities such as Ogle and DeKalb face significant structural barriers that worsen substance use outcomes.

- **Discuss the gaps highlighted by the council's community survey results.**

Our data and anecdotal evidence suggests that our community is very aware that there are resources available to assist with substance use issues however we find there are several gaps that influence how the community reaches for assistance.

1): Stigma Related to Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health

Survey findings and community feedback identify stigma as a major barrier to seeking help. Negative perceptions surrounding substance use disorders and mental health conditions can discourage individuals from accessing treatment and recovery support services. Addressing stigma aligns with the DBHR priority of increasing community understanding of recovery.

2): Lack of Reliable Transportation and Access to Services

Limited transportation options, particularly in rural areas, make it difficult for many residents to access treatment, healthcare, employment, and recovery support services. Addressing transportation barriers supports the DBHR goal of prioritizing equity by improving access to services for all community members.

3): Limited Availability of Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Treatment Services

Ogle and DeKalb Counties currently have no residential detoxification or substance use disorder treatment facilities, requiring residents to travel outside the area for care. Addressing this gap aligns with the DBHR goal of ensuring effective service delivery through expanded treatment options, stronger referral pathways, and exploration of funding and partnership opportunities.

Council Outreach and Communication Plans:

The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council supports community engagement, education, and recovery-oriented system improvement efforts throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties. As a community-based advisory council, the ROSC collaborates with a diverse network of community partners, including Rochelle Community Hospital, Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital, the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, Ben Gordon Center, Sinnissippi Centers, the DeKalb Area Alano Club, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, local law enforcement agencies, individuals with lived experience, and other community organizations committed to supporting recovery and wellness. Through these partnerships, the Council identifies service gaps, develops solution-based recovery initiatives, and promotes recovery-oriented systems of care. The

Council conducts outreach through community presentations, partner meetings, public forums, educational campaigns, social media, documentary screenings, and local events.

• **Objectives: describe what you want your communication plan to accomplish.**

The objective of all ROSC Communication is to direct the attention of the local community to solution based recovery and to reduce stigma. In any individual case we may illustrate a particular event or call to action but the overall body of work is aimed to highlight the growing recovery community. Until just a short few years ago this community had no awareness of recovery initiatives and stigmatized people significantly. Our newspaper still uses wild-eyed mugshot photos of people that are arrested for drunk driving, drug offenses and other crimes. In our small town, rural community, these photos often create a comment frenzy on social media full of insensitive and accusational rhetoric. Such exposure can cause humiliation and lead them back to their addictions. This community needs to be reminded that substance use disorders and mental health issues are non-discriminatory and impact people from all socio-economic strata in society.

• **Target Audiences:**

- 1) Individuals in the contemplation stage of recovery are our highest priority audience. Our goal is to ensure they can quickly and easily access information, support, and pathways to treatment and recovery services.
- 2) Individuals new to recovery, along with community leaders, stakeholders, and decision-makers, are a key audience for ROSC communications. We encourage people in recovery to share their success stories while engaging community leaders in creating recovery-friendly systems and reducing barriers to care.
- 3) The general public is our final target audience. Through education and community engagement, we seek to reduce stigma, increase understanding of substance use and mental health challenges, and build stronger support for recovery throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties.

• **Communication Channels & Frequency:**

The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council will utilize multiple communication channels to ensure consistent engagement, timely information sharing, and broad community outreach. All communication efforts will be coordinated by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery as the lead agency, with collaboration and support from ROSC Council members and peer leaders to ensure information is accurate, accessible, and community-driven.

Channel	Purpose	Frequency	Responsible Party
Monthly ROSC Council Meeting	Share updates, events, training opportunities, success stories, and partner resources.	Monthly	SVVOR with ROSC input
Email Updates & Partner Communication	Share time-sensitive updates, meeting reminders, referrals, and	As Needed	ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR

	collaboration opportunities.		
Sober Night Out	Reduce isolation and promote healthy, enjoyable alternatives to substance use	Monthly	SVVOR & ROSC coordinators
Community Outreach & Presentations	Increase public awareness, reduce stigma, and educate the community about recovery, substance use disorders, and overdose prevention.	Monthly and as Requested	SVVOR, ROSC & Peer Leaders
Outreach Flyers	Promote community events, training, recovery services, and educational opportunities across the Ogle/DeKalb region.	As Needed	ROSC Coordinator & SVVOR staff

One-to-One Engagement	Build trust, connect individuals to services, and support follow-through during transitions.	Daily	Peer recovery support staff & partner agencies
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Roles and Responsibilities:

ROSC Council Coordinator

The ROSC Council Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day coordination and implementation of ROSC activities. Key responsibilities include organizing monthly ROSC meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, coordinating partner communication, supporting outreach and engagement efforts, and ensuring progress toward strategic goals. The Coordinator also serves as the primary point of contact for community partners. In addition, the ROSC Coordinator serves as a referral link to the RCO, connecting individuals and families with appropriate services—including treatment and recovery support.

Assistant ROSC Coordinator

The Assistant ROSC Council Coordinator provides support and consistency for the ROSC Council. Responsibilities include providing recording meeting minutes, meeting notification, bookkeeping and other assistant clerical jobs.

Council Goals, Objectives, and Outcome Measures:

The Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Council, led by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (SVVOR), will implement four strategic community projects aimed at addressing long-standing service gaps while aligning with the ROSC goals of reducing stigma, increasing service delivery, promoting harm reduction, and prioritizing equity. These projects were selected through community feedback, peer engagement, and collaborative input from local providers.

Goal #1: Stigma Reduction

Implement the “Recovery Lives Here” public education campaign to increase community awareness and reduce stigma associated with substance use disorders and mental health throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties by June 30, 2026.

Objectives for Year 1:

- Establish a “Recovery Lives Here” outreach and education subcommittee by January 30, 2026.
- Recruit and train three volunteers to support outreach and educational events by January 30, 2027.
- Coordinate and facilitate 3 outreach and educational presentations to increase awareness and collaborate with local community leaders in schools (DeKalb County ROE, Focus House, ROE 47) and community service organizations (DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Ben Gordon, Rochelle Rescue Mission, Hope of Ogle County, and Safe Passage D.V. shelter)
- Organize and host a community forum featuring three individuals with lived experience to promote education and engagement by August 30, 2026.
- Collaborate with the Egyptian Theatre, Lincoln Arts Center, DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, Ben Gordon, DeKalb Area Alano Club and Rochelle Area Community Foundation to conduct quarterly recovery-focused documentary screenings (Generation Found/Recovery City) by June 30, 2026.
- Develop and disseminate outreach, marketing, and educational materials to support campaign messaging and public awareness efforts to local chambers, schools and civic organizations by March 1, 2026.

Progress Achieved:

- Developed partnerships with local organizations (DeKalb Area Alano Club, DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Ben Gordon, Rochelle Rescue Mission, Hope of Ogle County, and Safe Passage D.V. shelter) and venues (Egyptian Theatre, Lincoln Arts Center) to support community education initiatives.
- Identified key outreach locations in DeKalb, Sycamore, Rochelle, Oregon, Genoa-Kingston, Sandwich and community audiences for Year 1. Established framework for volunteer engagement and outreach coordination.
- Developed educational and stigma-reduction campaign materials.

Next Steps:

- Secure permission to give presentations and screenings.
- Expand outreach through additional community partnerships and local events.
- Increase volunteer recruitment and training efforts through community outreach, networking, and engagement with individuals with lived experience and family advocates.
- Disseminate additional educational materials and messaging informed by participant feedback and community survey data.
- Increase public engagement through social media campaigns on Facebook/YouTube, continued forums, and documentary screenings at partner sites.

Outcome/Output Measures:

- Number of outreach and educational events conducted
- Number of documentary screenings facilitated
- Number of volunteers recruited and trained
- Number of outreach materials and campaign impressions distributed
- Attendance and participation totals for forums and screenings
- Community feedback and participant evaluations collected through surveys during sponsored events

Year-3 Stigma Reduction

Goal:

Ongoing implementation and expansion of the “Recovery Lives Here” campaign through June 30, 2028, to increase public awareness, reduce stigma, and strengthen community understanding of the importance of recovery support services, peer support, harm reduction, and recovery housing through continued outreach, education, and community engagement throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties.

Objectives:

- Continue community outreach and educational activities throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties, conducting 4 events annually during FY27 and FY28.
- Maintain quarterly recovery-focused documentary screenings during FY27 and FY28.

- Conduct annual community forums featuring individuals with lived experience to strengthen public understanding and engagement.
- Expand volunteer involvement and strengthen partnerships with providers, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, and local stakeholders annually.
- Collect, review, and analyze annual community survey data related to attitudes toward recovery, mental health, and harm reduction services, and make necessary adjustments to outreach initiatives to remain responsive to changing community needs, beliefs, and perspectives.
- Increase social media and community outreach efforts to expand campaign visibility and engagement by creating video interview of Recovery Lives Here champions

Outcome Measures:

- Increased positive perceptions of recovery and mental health services reflected in annual Community Needs Assessment data
- Number of outreach and educational activities conducted annually
- Number of documentary screenings and community forums facilitated
- Number of collaborative partnerships established and maintained
- Number of campaign impressions, outreach materials distributed, and social media engagements
- Increased community awareness of recovery support resources and services

Goal #2: Ensure Effective Service Delivery

Provide access to Substance Use Disorder/ Mental Health treatment, recovery support services, referral pathways, and recovery-supportive employment opportunities throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties by June 30, 2026.

Objectives for Year 1:

- Strengthen coordinated service delivery by implementing a standardized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and referral agreement process and securing signed commitments from 6 new referral partners by June 30, 2026.
- Distribute an educational referral video and printed resource guide outlining local recovery support services, referral pathways, and Recovery Friendly Workplace opportunities, and establish a process for regular review and updates by the ROSC Council by December 31, 2026
- Conduct outreach and engagement in partnership with Rochelle Community Hospital, Kishwaukee Hospital, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Sycamore Police Department, Rochelle Police Department, Ogle and DeKalb County Probation Departments, Ben Gordon Center, Sinnissippi Centers, the DeKalb, Rochelle, and Sycamore Chambers of Commerce, and other community stakeholders to promote referral pathways, strengthen service coordination, and advance Recovery Friendly Workplace initiatives.

- Introduce Recovery Friendly Workplace education and technical assistance opportunities to local Chamber of Commerce and employers throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties.
- Develop educational materials and referral resources focused on recovery-supportive workplace practices, peer support integration, and reducing workplace stigma associated with substance use and mental health recovery by June 30, 2026
- Identify, engage, and add 4 additional substance use disorder and/or mental health service providers to the ROSC referral resource network by December 31, 2027

Progress Achieved:

- Initiated discussions with referral partners and local employers regarding standardized referral procedures, collaboration opportunities, and recovery-supportive workplace initiatives.
- Identified gaps in transportation, treatment access, and employment opportunities throughout the Ogle/Dekalb region.
- Began development of educational materials, referral resources, and Recovery Friendly Workplace information for community partners and employers.
- Strengthened communication with local deflection programs, behavioral health organizations (Ben Gordon, Sennisippi, Family Service Agency, Northwestern Medicine workforce partners, and business stakeholders.

Next Steps:

- Expand referral and employer partnerships throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties.
- Finalize and distribute referral education materials, videos, and Recovery Friendly Workplace resources.
- Conduct additional outreach presentations with healthcare providers, justice-system stakeholders, employers, and workforce development partners.
- Continue evaluating referral trends, barriers to treatment access, and employment challenges impacting individuals in recovery.
- Increase outreach to local businesses interested in implementing recovery-supportive workplace policies and practices.

Outcome/Output Measures:

- Number of signed MOUs obtained
- Number of referral partners and employer partners engaged
- Number of outreach presentations, educational meetings, and workplace engagement sessions conducted
- Number of referrals received monthly
- Number of educational materials, referral resources, and Recovery Friendly Workplace materials distributed
- Increased employer engagement in Recovery Friendly Workplace initiatives

Year 3 Ensure Effective Service Delivery

Goal:

Expand and sustain coordinated access to substance use disorder treatment, recovery support services, referral pathways, and recovery-supportive employment opportunities through ongoing partner meetings, stakeholder engagement, community networking events, and coordinated referral and transportation systems throughout Ogle and DeKalb Counties by June 30, 2028.

Objectives:

- Continue outreach and educational engagement with healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, behavioral health organizations, employers, Chambers of Commerce, workforce partners, and community stakeholders annually through ROSC Council activities, workgroup meetings, stakeholder forums, community networking events, and ongoing partnership development efforts.
- Expand referral partnerships to include 4 participating organizations and increase Recovery Friendly Workplace participation to 4 among local employers by June 30, 2028.
- Conduct annual reviews and updates of referral processes, transportation coordination procedures, workplace support resources, and MOUs.
- Continue collaboration with local deflection, harm reduction, recovery support, workforce development, and Recovery Friendly Workplace initiatives throughout FY27 and FY28.
- Monitor and evaluate referral trends, service gaps, workplace barriers, and barriers to treatment and employment access annually by reviewing referral and program data, conducting partner and stakeholder surveys, gathering feedback from individuals with lived experience, and analyzing Community Needs Assessment findings to identify emerging needs and opportunities for improvement.

Outcome Measures:

- Number of active referral partners and employer partners participating annually
- Number of MOUs maintained and renewed
- Increase in referrals to treatment and recovery support services
- Documentation of interagency collaboration, referral coordination, and workforce partnership meetings
- Increased community awareness of available treatment, recovery, and recovery-supportive employment pathways as measured through Community Needs Assessment data, event participation, and partner feedback
- Increased employer participation in Recovery Friendly Workplace initiatives by 1 per quarter
- Reduction in reported barriers to accessing treatment, recovery support services, transportation, and employment opportunities for individuals in recovery, as measured through annual Community Needs Assessments and stakeholder feedback surveys