

Sustainability—RCO/ Recovery Café/ Recovery Community Center

Sustainability is the ability to maintain and continue operations; to be funded (grants and donations) and be supported by staff and participants and state and local political/community leaders so as to endure and continue operations into perpetuity without fear of depletion of funding, staff or participants into the foreseeable future. Sustainability is supported through:

1. Policy (laws, grants)
2. Training (for staff and potential staff)
3. Data (through community needs assessment)
4. Associations with similar organizations and accreditations from agencies charged with doing so to maintain an important level of competency in providing services required by their communities. ARCO (Association of Recovery Community Organizations), CAPRSS (Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services), NRI (National Recovery Institute) are three accreditation bodies capable of providing assistance to approve and improve these organizations.

Factors that can improve sustainability for all recovery organizations are:

1. Having a roster of certified peer leaders
2. List of agencies and partners to collaborate with
3. Developing an online and physical presence as a clearing house of contacts, referrals, and services
4. Develop and maintain regular meetings, events, and presentations at regular times to provide contact points for individuals to meet, share information and ask for help.
5. Advertising through appropriate channels to be seen, known, recognized, and easily contacted by interested/concerned community members.

Definitions of different recovery organizations:

Recovery Community Cafés and Recovery Community Centers (RCCs) -

These are physical locations where people in or seeking recovery can go to receive recovery support, meals, classes and/or referrals to other community resources focused on recovery. This is a safe space or "sanctuary" for people to "hang out" with other people in recovery, and RCC's may have structured activities as well. People do not live at these facilities, but rather RCC's can help individuals build recovery capital at the community level by providing advocacy, training, recovery information and resource mobilization. RCCs (Café's) and RCCs (Centers) are similar, it is a choice of what they decide to call themselves and what network they affiliate with.

Recovery Community Organization (RCO)* -

RCOs are independent, non-profit organizations led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. *The Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use prevention and Recovery defines a recovery community organization as an entity that serves people in recovery through a three-pillar approach: education, advocacy, and individual recovery support services.

ROSC Council - Local ROSC Councils are defined by IDHS/SUPR as local membership organizations that seek to improve the local ROSC and participate in the statewide ROSC Council. Membership includes individuals that live in the community as well as local hospitals, primary care, mental health, law enforcement, local business owners, local government representatives and policy makers, persons with lived experience and SUD intervention, treatment, prevention, and recovery support service providers. The ROSC Council defines the size and scope of the community. ROSC Council leadership and

organization styles may vary, but usually include one or more leaders with lived experience or community champions that provide influence and direction.

Components of these several types of sustained recovery support should incorporate recovery support services, education, and advocacy.

Sources:

Recovery Café Network (<https://recoverycafe.org/about/share-our-model/>) or Recovery Community Centers (<https://ccar.us/services/recovery-community-centers/>)

<https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/resources/recovery-community-organizations>.