



What is a Recovery Community Organization (RCO)?

A recovery community organization (RCO) is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. There are over 175 local and state recovery community organizations in the US.

What are Peer Supported Services?

Peer-based recovery support services cover a wide range of activities not generally offered by treatment providers. Such services include but are not limited to peer support (e.g., recovery coaching), housing, transportation, vocational training, employment services, telephone support, support groups, system navigation, recovery resource

What are the potential outcomes of a RCO?

According to GPRA data (Government Performance and Results Act) from the SAMHSA RCSP Funding the following baseline data with 6 months follow up of individuals involved with a Recovery Community Support Program shows:

84.5%: no substance use

98.5%: no arrests

50.1%: employed

32.4%: housed increased

96.5%: socially connected

24.7%: depression decreased

2%: anxiety decreased

33.3%: suicide attempts decreased

Why is there a need for RCOs?

Historically, the substance use disorder and recovery field led the way in recognizing the importance of peer support services for a person seeking to come to terms with a life-changing condition. Utilization of peer support is, by now, a common practice in many fields. In the medical world of today, for example, there is scarcely a specialty where peer support is not recognized as a valuable adjunct to professional medical and social interventions. *Improved outcomes are particularly notable when peer support services are provided to people with chronic conditions that require long-term self-management.*

Peer recovery support services can fill a need long recognized by treatment providers for services to support recovery after an individual leaves a treatment program and/or provide the support when an individual is released from incarceration. In addition, peer recovery support services hold promise as a vital link between systems that treat substance use disorders in a clinical or prison setting and the larger communities in which people seeking to achieve and sustain recovery live.

References:

The Recovery Community Organization: Toward A Working Definition and Description

Phillip A. Valentine, William L. White and Pat Taylor

US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment