

## RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE **DEMONSTRATED VALUE**

The Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO) defines a Recovery Community Organization (RCO) as, “an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery”. These organizations provide a wide range of resources and support for people seeking recovery, including but not limited to:



PEER-RECOVERY  
COACHING



RECOVERY FOCUSED  
EVENTS



MUTUAL SUPPORT  
GROUPS



ADVOCACY, EDUCATION,  
AND OUTREACH

As the opioid epidemic rises across U.S. communities, substance use disorder (SUD) researchers and treatment professionals highlight the need for a holistic, person-centered approach across the continuum of SUD and recovery. While traditional methods have emphasized short, clinically based treatments, we now know SUD requires long-term support that addresses more than clinical aspects. Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) have demonstrated their ability to fill this critical gap.

State legislators have strong reasons to support RCOs because they provide cost-effective, community-based recovery support that improves health outcomes, reduces state costs, and fosters lasting change at the individual and community levels. By investing in RCOs, legislators can make a positive impact on public health, economic stability, and community resilience across the state.

## EVIDENCE BASE

### PEOPLE WHO ENGAGED IN PEER SUPPORT SERVICES SAW...



#### INCREASES IN...

*Self-Sufficiency*

*Employment Rates*

*Access to Social Supports*

*Long-Term Recovery Supports*



#### DECREASES IN...

*Relapse Rates*

*Emergency Service Utilization*

*Criminal Justice System Involvement*

*Overall Substance Use*

## CREATING A PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY

Funding mechanisms for SUD treatment and recovery support services vary widely across the state and include grant-based funding, fee-for-service models, and grassroots community fundraising. Given that many of the services and programs RCOs support are not reimbursable under fee-for-service models and grant-based funding for RCOs has historically been limited, these valuable organizations have struggled to achieve full financial sustainability.

After recognizing the value these organizations bring to their communities, both the Michigan House and Senate passed House Bill 5832 with a 96-5 and 38-0 votes respectively in December of 2020. Last year HB 4437 Section 978 of the bill provided funding to:

*Sec. 978. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for community substance use disorder prevention, education, and treatment and recovery community organizations, the department shall allocate \$3,000,000.00, with \$1,800,000.00 allocated on a 1-time basis, as grants for recovery community organizations to offer or expand recovery support center services or recovery community center services to individuals seeking long-term recovery from substance use disorders in accordance with section 273b of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1273b.*

**This provided 20 grants of \$150,000 to ARCO accredited RCOs in Michigan. These funds were instrumental in funding initiatives like...**



### BLUE WATER RECOVERY & OUTREACH CENTER

Serving Port Huron and the surrounding communities, the peer-recovery coaches at BWROC were able to **engage with over 4500 individuals** in 2024, linking them to important, community-based recovery resources. In supporting these efforts, the team provided nearly **1000 mutual support groups** and fielded over **5100 calls** for support & while transporting over **3,200** this year.

### LIVE RITE STRUCTURED RECOVERY

Live Rite serves Southeast Michigan and has provided **11,886 individuals** with services and resources in 2024. They have provided **4,601 transports YTD**. Their Peer Coaches have met with **263 participants this year** with over **1,000 meetings** to help those in recovery. They provided job placement & training to **198** individuals, food assistance to **1379** families, **724** clothing vouchers.



### Lifeboat Addiction Recovery Services

Lifeboat Addiction Recovery Services' Peer Recovery Coach team serves the Greater Lansing Area and surrounding communities. To date in 2024, Lifeboat has made contact with **742** Recoverees through events and classes, held **924** one-on-one recovery coaching sessions, and provided **718 referrals** into external community resources to ensure holistic and comprehensive services.



## BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

**Rationale to support:** Many RCOs rely on grants and donations, which can be unpredictable. Guaranteed funding allows RCOs to focus on their work without the distraction of constant fundraising.

State legislator support for Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) is wise for their Government cost savings, public health benefits, and efficiency in fostering sustainable recovery. Every community needs an RCO. By connecting people to recovery communities, RCOs reduce Government spending and improve long-term recovery rates. Additionally, RCOs help dismantle the stigma around SUD by offering hope to those still struggling in silence.

### ASK - Proposed Language:

*Sec. 978. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for community substance use disorder prevention, education, and treatment and recovery community organizations, the department shall allocate \$1,200,000.00 as grants for MARCO certified recovery community organizations in accordance with section 273b of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1273b. A grant must be used to offer or expand recovery support center services or recovery community center services to individuals seeking long-term recovery from substance use disorders.*

*Section 1930 – Opioid Response Activities (settlement funds)*

*(e) \$3,800,000.00 to supplement grants to recovery community organizations under section 978 and in accordance with section 273b of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1273b.*

*(f) \$250,000 to an association made of recovery community organizations for support and technical assistance*

There are currently 19 identified RCOs in Michigan and that number is increasing. Providing this critical funding to these organizations will help establish a stronger RCO infrastructure that will drive innovative programs across the state.

## ABOUT THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION of RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



MARCO is an association of recovery community organizations in Michigan whose mission and vision include a primary focus on supporting recovery from substance use disorders through shaping state-level policies, investments, and initiatives.

### OUR ASSOCIATION INCLUDES:

#### 217 Recovery

Grand Traverse, MI

#### Blue Water Recovery & Outreach Center

Port Huron, MI

#### Community Recovery Alliance

Petoskey, MI

#### Detroit Recovery Project

Detroit, MI

#### Lifeboat Addiction Recovery

Lansing, MI

#### Life Align

Muskegon, MI

#### Live Rite Structured Recovery

Roseville, MI

#### New Way 365

Eau Claire, MI

#### Passenger Recovery

Hamtramck, Michigan

#### Peer 360

Bay City, MI

#### Recovery Advocacy in Livingston

Livingston MI

#### CARE Recovery United Community Center

Fraser, MI

#### Rise Recovery

Lansing, MI

#### Recovery Advocate in Livingston

Bay City, MI

#### REAL Michigan

Detroit, MI

#### Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan

Kalamazoo, MI

#### Recovery Action Network of Michigan

Canton, MI

#### Serenity House of Flint & Lapeer

Flint, MI

#### Superior connections

Marquette, MI

## **Conclusion:**

Investing in RCOs is not just about funding recovery, it's about building healthier communities, reducing government spending, and giving people the tools to rebuild their lives. Legislative support for RCOs is an investment in public health, public safety, and economic stability, one that benefits everyone.

## **Requested Amount**

\$5,250,000

\$1,200,000 - community substance use disorder prevention, education, and treatment and recovery community organizations

\$3,800,000 – Opioid Settlement funds

\$250,000 - Opioid Settlement funds

## **Previous Funding**

\$3,380,000 in FY 25 (\$1,200,000 ongoing and \$1,880,000 one-time)

## **Proposed Language:**

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