

FY24 GBPS Community Needs Assessment

Recovery Needs Assessment for Grand Boulevard Prevention Services

Introduction

Grand Boulevard Prevention Services (GBPS) is a non-profit organization serving the Grand Boulevard, Douglas, Washington Park, and Fuller Park community areas on Chicago's South Side. Since its inception in 2017, GBPS has focused on prevention services addressing underage drinking, substance abuse, and the intersection of these issues with violence. More recently, as the recipient of the ROSC grant funding, GBPS expanded services to include the needs of adults in recovery, supporting programs and resources to help individuals maintain sobriety.

Community Characteristics

The service areas are predominantly African American and have long histories of economic and social challenges. They suffer from some of the worst economic, health, social, and violence disparities in the United States. Key statistics include:

- **High Poverty Rates:** Poverty rates range between 24.7% and 34.4%, significantly higher than the citywide average of 16.9%.
- **Low Median Household Income:** Median household income ranges from \$25,499 to \$34,933, compared to Chicago's \$71,673.
- **High Unemployment Rates:** Unemployment rates are higher than the city average, with some areas exceeding national averages.
- **Violent Crime:** These communities experience some of the highest violent crime rates in Chicago.
- **Limited Access to Treatment:** The Chicago Department of Public Health reports limited access to mental health and substance abuse treatment services in these areas.
- **Homelessness:** The 2023 Chicago Point-in-Time Count found a significant homeless population in Grand Boulevard and Douglas.
- **Gentrification:** These neighborhoods are experiencing mixed gentrification, bringing both resources and displacement.

Substance Use Challenges

These communities also face significant substance use challenges, with rates of adults with any SUD exceeding the citywide average. Limited access to treatment services further exacerbates the problem.

Data Sources:

- Chicago Health Atlas (2019)
- University of Chicago Hospital Needs Assessment (2022)

- Illinois Opioid Dashboard
- Chicago Department of Public Health's 2022 Community Area Profiles
- 2023 Chicago Point-in-Time Count
- US Census (2020)

An analysis of the current strengths and weaknesses of the organization provides the following:

Strengths

- **GBPS's experience:** The organization has been active in the Westside community since 2015, establishing trust and credibility.
- **Programs:** GBPS offers various prevention programs for youth and adults, including educational workshops and awareness campaigns.
- **Harm Reduction:** GBPS provides free Narcan training and advocates for increased access to harm reduction services.
- **Recovery Support:** GBPS offers recovery support services for individuals in recovery, including peer support and linkage to resources.
- **Community Engagement:** GBPS works to build community norms that discourage substance use and promote recovery.
- **Peer support expertise:** GBPS has staff and volunteers with lived experience and with education surrounding substance abuse and mental health challenges.
- **Naloxone training:** GBPS offers Naloxone training to prevent overdose deaths.
- **Trauma-informed approach**

Weaknesses

- **Limited provider participation:** As a new ROSC, the coalition is still in the process of building participation in the meetings. Lack of attendance of providers at ROSC meetings weakens the network.
- **Recovery Professionals:** Additional staff training is needed to allow individuals to become certified in Illinois.

Opportunities

- **ROSC expansion:** GBPS can leverage the ROSC framework to build access to recovery resources.
- **Increased outreach:** Targeted outreach strategies like webinars and consultations can educate providers about ROSC and encourage participation.
- **Sustainability planning:** Developing sustainable funding streams will ensure the long-term viability of recovery support services.

- **Strategic communication:** Clear messages that resonate with residents and providers can improve service utilization and recruitment efforts.
- **Staffing:** GBPS can provide residents with training to become professionals in the recovery field.

Threats

- **Limited Funding:** ROSC councils rely on grants and funding streams that may be unstable or insufficient to support long-term operations.
- **Sustainability Challenges:** Securing long-term funding to ensure the ongoing viability of ROSC services can be difficult.
- **Provider Participation:** A lack of participation from substance abuse treatment providers weakens the ROSC network and limits the reach of recovery support services.
- **Stigma:** Stigma surrounding addiction can discourage people from seeking help and make it difficult to build community support for ROSC initiatives.
- **Staffing Shortages:** Difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff, particularly certified peer recovery specialists, could limit the capacity of ROSC councils to deliver services.

Recommended actions:

- **Diversify Funding Sources:** Explore grant opportunities beyond traditional sources. Look into public-private partnerships, corporate sponsorships, and fundraising events.
- **Sustainability Planning:** Develop a long-term sustainability plan that outlines strategies for securing ongoing funding. This could involve grant writing, fundraising initiatives, or advocating for increased public funding for recovery support services.
- **Targeted Outreach:** Develop targeted outreach strategies to engage treatment providers. This could involve face-to-face meetings, webinars, or informational packets highlighting the benefits of ROSC participation.
- **Highlight Success Stories:** Showcase success stories of how ROSC has benefited providers and the community to encourage wider participation.
- **Community Education:** Organize educational workshops and events to increase public awareness of ROSC and its role in supporting recovery.
- **Peer Advocacy:** Involve people in recovery in outreach efforts to share their stories and challenge stigma.
- **Community Partnerships:** Partner with faith-based organizations, community centers, and local businesses to promote ROSC and recovery resources.
- **Joint Training & Events:** To foster collaboration and communication, organize joint training sessions and events for different ROSC stakeholders.
- from various stakeholder groups to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making.

- **Competitive Compensation & Benefits:** Offer competitive salaries and benefits packages to attract and retain qualified staff.
- **Peer Support:** Develop career pathways for recovery professionals to become certified peer recovery specialists.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Implement mentorship programs to support new staff and promote professional development.

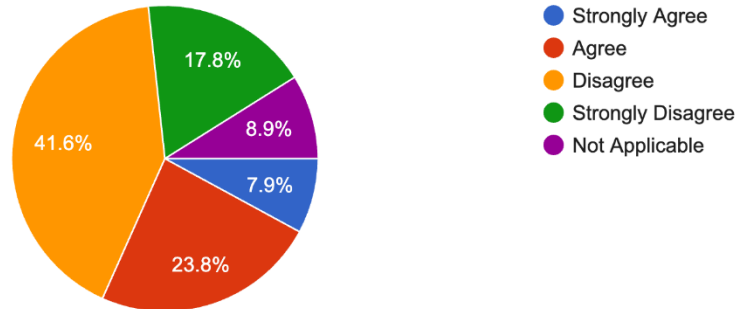
Data & Measurement Challenges:

- **Standardize Data Collection:** Develop standardized data collection to facilitate outcome measurement and program evaluation.

Results of the GBPS survey are attached.

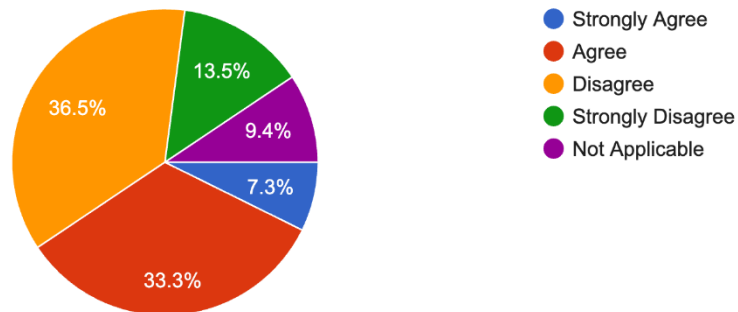
1. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are enough addiction treatment services available in the community.

101 responses



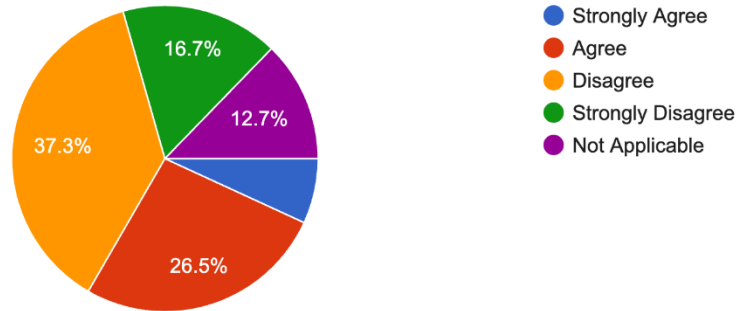
2. How much do you agree with the following statement? Education about Substance Use Disorder Services (including Methadone, Suboxone, and other Medicated Treatment) is available to residents.

96 responses



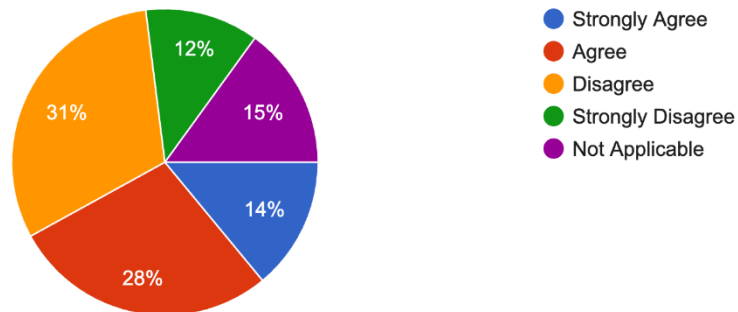
3. How much do you agree with the following statement? Information on Fentanyl testing strips and needle exchanges is available to residents.

102 responses



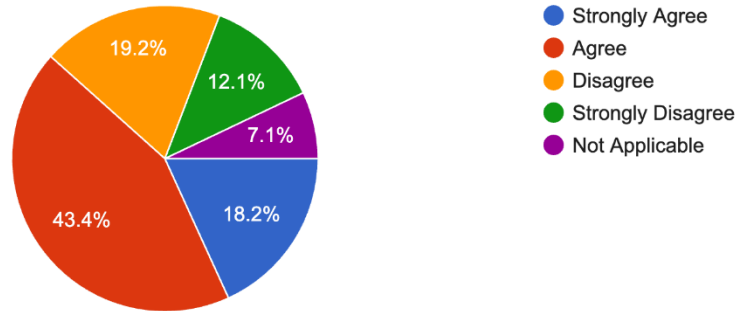
4. How much do you agree with the following statement? Information on Narcan training and availability is available to residents.

100 responses



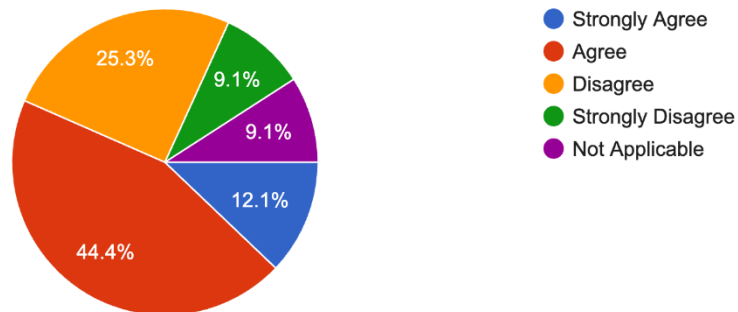
5. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are resources within the community to assist individuals with getting jobs and/or additional education.

99 responses



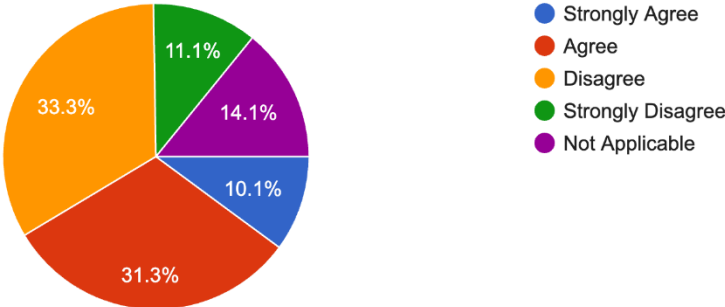
6. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are resources within the community to assist individuals with getting involved in safe, sober activities.

99 responses



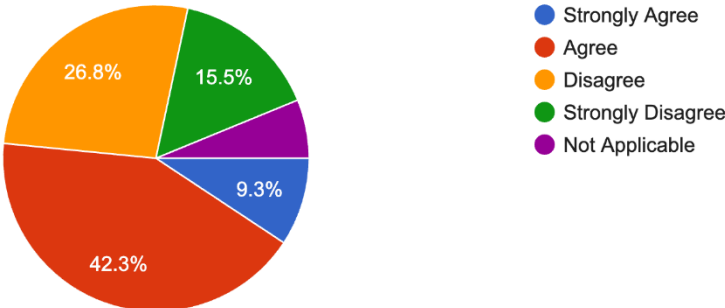
7. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are resources within the community to link individuals in recovery to others who can serve as mentors.

99 responses



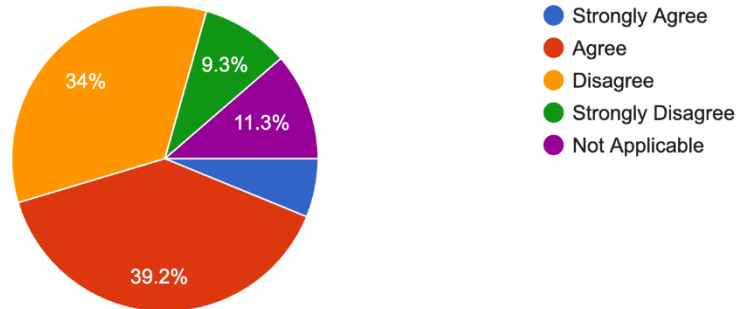
8. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are resources within the community to assist individuals with finding safe affordable housing.

97 responses



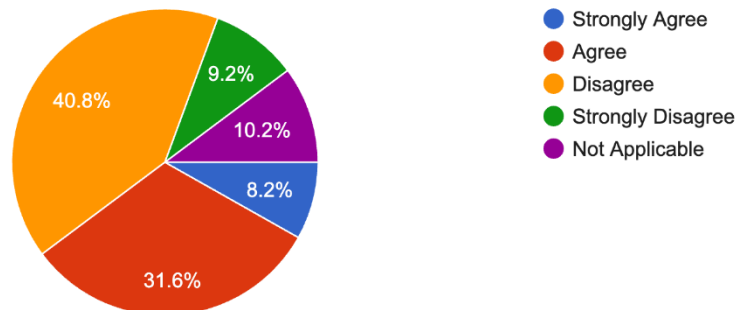
9. How much do you agree with the following statement? There are resources within the community to assist individuals in finding legal services.

97 responses



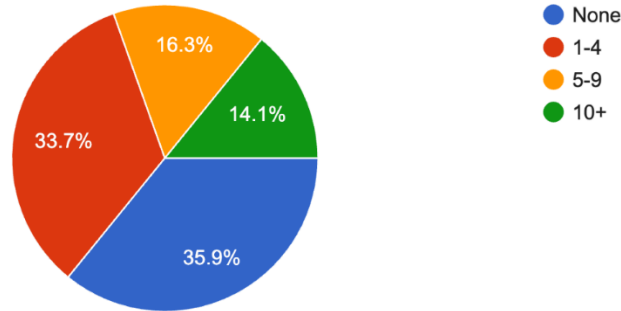
10. How much do you agree with the following statement? The community provides opportunities for individuals in recovery to assist in developing services.

98 responses



11. How many people that you are aware of are exposed to opioids including Fentanyl, Morphine, Heroin, Oxycodone, and others?

92 responses



12. What services do you feel the community is lacking?

- Police services
- Rehab services
- Employment support
- Housing support/affordable housing
- Mentorship services for youth
- mental health services
- Exterminators, working elevators, clean water
- PTSD support
- Food services
- Everything
- Gun violence prevention
- Security and protection in schools
- Community centers and boys/girls club
- Extracurriculars for youth
- recovery support

13. Demographic information

Age- 31, 21, 26, 24, 45, 20, 49, 24, 22, 21, 22, 31, 21, 55, 62, 59, 82, 32, 47, 42, 52, 14, 21, 20, 19, 19, 19, 26, 17, 15, 17, 43, 63, 57, 19, 38, 14, 13, 36

Race- 97% Black/African American

Gender- 42% Female, 58% Male

Community Demographics

Demographics of these community areas can be found in the table below. (US Census 2020)

Washington Park	Population- 12,366 Families with children- 32% Median Age- 37 years Gender- 45% male 55% female Race- 94% Black 2% Hispanic 2% White Median Income- \$41,324 Poverty level- 46.9%
Fuller Park	Population- \$2,219 Families with children- 18% Median Age- 40 years Gender- 48% male 52% female Race- 80% Black 11% Hispanic 3% White Median Income- \$19,459 Poverty level- 48.8%
Grand Boulevard	Population- 24,813 Families with children- 23% Median Age- 34 years Gender- 43% male 57% female Race- 87% Black 3% Hispanic 5% White Median Income- \$51,810 Poverty level- 47%
Douglas	Population- 21,355 Families with children- 18% Median Age- 37 years Gender- 46% male 54% female Race- 64% Black 13% Asian 10% White Median Income- \$60,985 Poverty level- 39%