

SRC is creating a recovery-oriented system of care in the south suburban region of Cook County which includes: Ford Heights, Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Glenwood, Lansing, Lynwood, Sauk Village and the southeastern corridor of Will County which includes parts of Park Forest, Steger, and University Park; along with Crete and Monee. Individually, our partners have been hard at work to provide a supportive recovery community and believe that the formation of a ROSC Council will greatly help to expand our work while building a holistic, comprehensive network of services, and organized effort to develop a strong public health approach focuses on prevention of substance use problems in the general population. SRC endeavors to create an infrastructure and coordinated system of care with the resources of its partners to effectively address the full range of substance use problems within the south suburban region. SRC has identified critical service gaps to those impacted by substance use towards developing the goals and objectives of this strategic plan.

Pivoting During a Pandemic: Hosting Virtual Meetings & Workshops

In April 2020, SRC completely shifted its focus to offer new programs that address the pressing issues of COVID-19. Current challenges helped to highlight the flexibility and thoughtfulness that SRC had to demonstrate moving forward to work to overcome the issues brought by COVID-19. Throughout these challenging times, SRC uncovered creative, innovative, and inspirational solutions from to continue its programs and activities along a diverse range of focus areas, geographies, and missions. SRC was able to quickly pivot and adapt to meet new demands, provide new services, and prepare to serve a new future using virtual, social media, and distributing PPE with recovery and health-related materials.

TOP 5 CHALLENGE AREAS

1. Hospital and clinic closures in the post-pandemic era.
2. Youth, teen, and young adult treatment programs are not accessible across the Southland without a vehicle.
3. Many meetings and support groups listed on various sites are outdated and not kept up to date.
4. SRC's visibility in the area is increasing, yet other health, wellness, and financial capability remain high priorities for residents; which is even more compromised for minority groups and the stigma behind treatment.
5. The Southland is vast with over 60+ municipalities and not covered by available resources in an equitable manner. For example, Ford Heights is a food desert with Cornerstone CDC as the anchor nonprofit agency vs Orland Park with a plethora of stores, services, and NFPs.

The Gaps: The Greatest Needs in South Suburban Cook County





Community Connections to Recovery Support Services.

The Southland region's health care providers, substance use disorder experts, and community leaders often do not know what recovery support services are available in their communities.

Community Recovery Housing.

Housing is one of the basic needs for people in recovery, but there is a lack of accessible and affordable sober living options for people in recovery in the south suburbs and barriers to accessing housing options.

Community Peer Specialists.

Peer specialists provide evidence-based support to people in recovery, but the area does not know the capacity of this workforce in local communities. People in recovery highlighted the need for peer specialist support statewide.