



Recovery Community Organization: History and Overview

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- Recovery Community Organizations have been providing services in Minnesota for over a decade.
- RCO's operate with grant funding from the state to provide non-clinical services such as:
 - Telephone recovery support
 - 1-1 peer recovery support
 - Advocacy for individuals in recovery

RCO Statutory Definition

- “Recovery community organization” is defined in statute (Minn.Stat.§254B.01) as an independent organization led and governed by local communities of recovery. Their statutory roles are:
 - Mobilize resources to increase long-term recovery from substances
 - Provide peer-based recovery support activities
 - Provide mentorship and connect people with resources
 - Promote recovery-focused education and programming to foster healthy communities and reduce the stigma of substance use disorder

RCOs and the Evolution of Peer Services

- In 2017, Minnesota recognized that the SUD continuum of care should expand to include MA peer services.
- Peer services can be provided under the umbrella of a treatment program or an RCO.
- In order to allow RCO's to provide MA peer services, a formal way to identify RCO's as an eligible vendor of MA services was needed.
- DHS required RCOs show membership to the Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO) in order to enroll as an eligible vendor for MA.

RCO Funding

- Base funding: \$362,000 in general fund for FY 22 and FY 23
- The 2021 Legislature appropriated an additional \$6 million in temporary funding for RCOs in FY 2022-2024.



ARCO vs. MN Certification Board

- There is only one accrediting body for RCOs in the United States: the Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services (CAPRSS).
- CAPRSS is an arm of ARCO and in order for an organization to become accredited as an RCO by CAPRSS, they must be a member of ARCO.
- The Minnesota Certification Board certifies individuals, not agencies.
 - The Board works in partnership with RCOs to vet trainings and certify peers

Looking Forward

- Ongoing DHS and RCO stakeholder engagement
- RFP for new funding is undergoing final review at DHS
- Possible funding and policy opportunities to support the growing RCO community



Thank You!