An estimated 400,000 people in Colorado are in recovery. However, we do not know where they live, what recovery supports they need, or whether there is enough funding to support their needs.

Colorado’s Recovery Needs

- System Needs for a common language, definitions, and standardized data collection to promote a recovery-oriented system of care.
- Clinical Needs to prepare health care providers with recovery-inclusive language and recovery resources for their patients.
- Community Needs to equip neighborhoods and towns with a range of recovery support services for their residents.

The Strategic Plan

- Vision: People in recovery are valued and thrive in their communities.
- Mission: Embed recovery support services in Colorado communities by integrating recovery into the substance use disorder continuum of care.
- Goals:
  - People in recovery are housed.
  - People in recovery have purpose—through work, education, or something else.
  - People in recovery have a strong community of support.
  - People in recovery are healthy.

Strategic Objectives

- Create a Recovery-Oriented System of Care
- Provide Recovery-Oriented Clinical Care
- Equip Communities with Recovery Supports

Strategic Objectives

- Create a Recovery-Oriented System of Care
  - Needs Addressed: Health care providers and others need education on what recovery is. Substance use funding sources are mostly directed to treatment. Colorado’s data systems cannot characterize the supply and demand of recovery supports.
  - Example Strategy: Create sustained, targeted funding opportunities to support existing recovery support services or develop new services.
- Key Question for Colorado’s Recovery Leaders: How can insurance providers invest in substance use disorder management in the same way they invest in the management of other chronic diseases?

- Provide Recovery-Oriented Clinical Care
  - Needs Addressed: Recovery is not well integrated into the continuum of care for substance use disorders.
  - Example Strategy: Equip the entire health care system—from primary care community providers to acute care hospitals—to support people in recovery.
- Key Question for Colorado’s Recovery Leaders: How do we ensure Colorado has an adequate workforce—particularly in rural communities that struggle to find and keep recovery support providers?

- Equip Communities with Recovery Supports
  - Needs Addressed: Colorado’s recovery system needs additional supports outside of the clinical setting—such as housing and employment assistance, providing sober social activities, and opportunities to improve mental health and physical well-being.
  - Example Strategy: Build community by increasing access to peer-run and peer-delivered services.
- Key Question for Colorado’s Recovery Leaders: How can community programs be designed to also support families of individuals pursuing recovery?

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the hundreds of recovery experts and community members from across the state who shared their thoughts and insights with us during community forums, individual interviews, and through survey input. We also thank Mental Health Colorado and the members of the Recovery Advisory Committee for their thoughtful assistance and leadership.