

THE ROLE OF RECOVERY-ORIENTED APPROACHES IN PUBLIC SAFETY-LED OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Recovery is a process where people improve their health, live a self-directed life and strive to reach their full potential ([SAMHSA, 2012](#)).

Recovery is not just an individual process of personal transformation. It happens in a system where everyone works together to make recovery possible. This means it is important to create an environment where personal recovery can happen. **Recovery-oriented systems of care** (ROSC) take a collaborative approach to make recovery possible. They build upon the strengths of individuals, families and communities in the recovery journey.

To prevent overdose and promote recovery, public safety officers must be aware of available recovery resources. These include treatment and recovery organizations and other social service providers. Public safety-led overdose prevention and response efforts in BIPOC communities should establish strong community partnerships and facilitate timely access to services when individuals seek help.

Individuals are less likely to experience repeat crises when they take early steps into recovery. Engaging in recovery can lead to fewer public safety encounters, improving safety for all.

The six principles of providing recovery-oriented services are:

- 1. Strengths-based.** Tap into existing recovery resources in the community and leverage their strengths.
- 2. Integrated services and continuity of care.** Build partnerships within the community to establish linkages to care.
- 3. Person-centered and self-directed.** Recognize and respect the values, needs and preferences of individuals.
- 4. Culturally responsive.** Work with communities to identify a shared language and cultural considerations.
- 5. Anchored in community.** Focus on integrating people into their larger communities and amplify the role of community supports in the recovery process.
- 6. Peer support.** Utilize peers to engage people with services during the recovery process.



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