

Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) Definitions & Resources

1. Recovery Community Organization:

“A recovery community organization (RCO) is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. These organizations organize recovery-focused policy advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and/or provide peer-based recovery support services (P-BRSS). The broadly defined recovery community – people in long-term recovery, their families, friends and allies, including recovery-focused addiction and recovery professionals – includes organizations whose members reflect religious, spiritual and secular pathways of recovery. The sole mission of an RCO is to mobilize resources within and outside of the recovery community to increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions. Public education, policy advocacy and peer-based recovery support services are the strategies through which this mission is achieved (Valentine, White, & Taylor, 2007).”

2. Recovery Peer Specialist:

“A Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS) helps to ensure client directed care by assisting people to build the skills and relationships needed to achieve and maintain recovery from substance use and/or mental health conditions. The CRPS achieves this goal by using their lived experience and professional preparation to mentor, monitor, and motivate the others to achieve recovery. All tasks must reflect the perspective of the person served, meaning the CRPS must apply their skills to meet the individual needs of the client from where he or she is in recovery. demonstrated competency through training and experience in the performance domains of: • Advocacy • Mentoring • Recovery Support • Professional Responsibility (The Florida Certification Board, 2017).”

References:

- *The Recovery Community Organizations: Toward a Working Definition and Description* (Valentine, White, & Taylor, 07)
<http://www.williamwhitepapers.com/pr/2007DefiningRecoveryCommunityOrganization.pdf>
- Faces and Voices for Recovery (Association of Recovery Community Organizations)
<https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/programs/>
- Faces and Voices for Recovery (Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services)
<https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/programs/caprss.html>
- The Florida Certification Board – Certified Recovery Peer Specialists: Adult, Family, Veteran, or Youth)
<https://flcertificationboard.org/certifications/certified-recovery-peer-specialist-adult-family-or-veteran/>