

## RECOVERY MONTH: PROCLAMATION, HELPLINE VIDEO CAMPAIGN, NEW ROSC COUNCILS AND MORE!

On September 4th, Governor JB Pritzker officially signed a proclamation declaring that September 2019 is Recovery Month in Illinois! Recovery Month has been celebrated all month long as a time to reduce stigma against mental health and substance use disorders, raise awareness about the effectiveness of recovery supports, and celebrate the achievements of people in recovery. The Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR) and service providers across the state worked all month long to show that Recovery Belongs in Illinois.

In conjunction with Illinois Recovery Month, IDHS announced the launch of the new, statewide Help is Here video campaign to bring awareness to the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances. The Illinois Helpline connects individuals struggling with substance use directly with treatment and recovery options. Since it was established in 2017, the Illinois Helpline has received over 16,700 calls and 40,000 website visits.

The Help is Here videos feature individuals who share their stories of recovery and organizations from across the state who are providing treatment and recovery services for opioid and other substance use disorders. The video campaign will include TV spots, transit posters, social media ads, and billboard postings across major media markets in Illinois. The videos will also be posted on the IDHS YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEbwKS7ZQ5WWvkPSeiQr8HA>. We encourage you to share these videos

through your organization's social media accounts using the hashtag #RecoveryBelongs.

Additionally, IDHS/SUPR worked with the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago to light up the city's skyline in purple to raise awareness about Recovery Month. Other Recovery Month events included Kenneth Young Center's Remember. Recover. Discover. Community Awareness Day in Elk Grove Village and Amare's Rockin' for Recovery Music Festival in East Alton. To view a detailed list of Recovery Month events across the state, visit <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118655>.

Also during Recovery Month, IDHS/SUPR determined the results of the competitive bid to establish three additional multiple, networked, geographically distributed ROSC Councils that will assist communities with building local



*IDHS/SUPR lights up the Chicago skyline purple for Recovery Month.*

recovery-oriented systems of care and that can network with the statewide ROSC.

These three lead agencies join the eight that were established last year and will begin setting goals and objectives to develop and grow a ROSC in their community, specific to the needs of the community as defined in a needs assessment. These funds support lead agency staff to organize the logistics of ROSC Council meetings, stipends to ensure the participation of persons with lived experience, and training costs. The three new lead agencies are:

- Bridgeway, Inc. (McDonough and Fulton Counties)
- Human Service Center (Randolph and Washington Counties)
- Ford Heights Community Service Organization: (Will County)

To learn more about all eleven projects, including how you can get involved with your local ROSC Council, please visit <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=117096> or contact the Project Director, Rex E. Alexander, at [Rex.Alexander@illinois.gov](mailto:Rex.Alexander@illinois.gov).

IDHS/SUPR continues to implement strategies targeted at promoting recovery and reducing the effects of substance use disorders in Illinois. If you or someone you know is suffering from an opioid use disorder or other substance use disorders, call the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at 1-833-2FINDHELP (234-6343) or visit <https://helplineil.org/>. Sharing these resources can help someone take their first steps on the path of recovery.