



Center for Community Engagement

at Chestnut Health Systems



Engaging the Illinois Faith Community to Increase Recovery and Mental Health Community Support

Illinois is a diverse State with nearly 13 million residents, 73% of whom identify as being part of roughly 11,800 communities of faith.¹ Often, faith communities are one of the first places individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders and other mental illnesses turn to for help.

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT!



4.2 Million

Illinois residents attend a religious service at least once per week²



3,013

Illinois residents died from a drug overdose in 2021¹

For every life lost to an overdose, there are 1,393 faith-based community members.

That's 1,393 chances to make a difference.

Substance use and mental health disorders do not discriminate, they can affect anyone in any community. In 2023, 28.7% of adults in Illinois reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorders.² Which means, over 1 in every 4 Illinois residents is impacted by a mental health disorder. This number increases when including family members and loved ones of individuals suffering from mental health disorder symptoms or diagnosis. Statistically, this also means that these individuals and families are participants in faith communities across the state.

The Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative seeks to support and empower the work faith communities are doing to support individuals and families by providing information, trainings, toolkits, and networking opportunities.



Goals of the Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative:

- Increase awareness of mental health and substance use challenges
- Identify and decrease stigma against substance use and mental health disorders
- Enhance collaboration between faith and recovery communities
- Increase community supports for individuals in recovery
- Increase recovery program participation and referrals
- Provide local resources
- Promote local prevention efforts
- Decrease deaths by overdose and suicide

Become a Certified Recovery Congregation

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES:

- Complete four specified trainings on mental health and substance use issues within one calendar year.
- Additional trainings every two years



CERTIFIED RECOVERY CONGREGATIONS ARE KNOWN & PROMOTED PUBLICLY AS:

- Safe and welcoming to those in recovery and their families.
- Equipped and informed communities for those facing substance use and mental health challenges.
- A resource hub for substance use and mental health assistance.



CERTIFIED RECOVERY CONGREGATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR:

- Additional training opportunities
- Printed materials, resources, and local support program development toolkits
- Engagement in advisory and collaborative groups
- Technical assistance and support from the CCE



To inquire about resources, training, assistance or for further information, please contact us at: CoalitionSupport@chestnut.org

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