

The ARCO Toolkit looks at how to go about setting up an RCO – from the core principles that inform it to the practicalities of creating and sustaining an organisation. It gives CLEAR GUIDANCE & Steps for creating a Recovery Community Organisation.

## ARCO CRITERIA

- Each organisation has a mission that reflects the issues and concerns of their community.
- One of the founding principles of RCOs is embracing all pathways to recovery.
- All RCOs share three core principles:
  - Recovery Vision
  - Authenticity of Voice
  - Accountability to the Recovery Community.
- RCOs provide an organised way for people to give back to their communities through volunteering and paid service to others seeking recovery.
- RCO's use participatory processes

## RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS CORE STRATEGIES

RCOs must have a majority of board members, managers, staff, and volunteers drawn from the community. Their accountability to the Recovery Community. In most cases, this means being an independent, stand-alone, non-profit organisation. E.g.; an RCO may work closely with treatment providers, criminal justice, or the NHS - but must be independent of them in terms of their governance.

- Promote recovery-focused and oriented values and communities.
- *Each organisation determines the mix and priority given to each of these core strategies:*
  - Public Education and Awareness
  - Policy advocacy
  - Peer-based and other recovery support services and activities

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Being a member of ARCO gives organisations the opportunity to build relationships with local, national, and international recovery community organisations.

The Association of Recovery Community Organisations (ARCO) unites and supports the growing network of local, regional and national recovery community organisations. ARCO links recovery community organisations and their leaders with local and national allies, and provides training and technical assistance to groups. All recovery community organisations that are led and governed by the recovery community are welcome to join.