



Center for African American Recovery Development

RCO Toolkit

Resource 3.2C

Sample Community Survey



Sample Community Survey

Community Needs Assessment Tool for Black-Led Recovery Organizations

This sample survey is designed to help Black-led RCOs better understand the unique needs, preferences, and barriers experienced by their communities. It can be adapted for digital or paper-based distribution.

Because of long-standing systemic racism and neglect, many Black communities hold deep and valid distrust toward traditional institutions—including healthcare, mental health, and substance use systems. This makes authentic community engagement and listening not just helpful, but essential. Gathering honest input through community-designed tools like this survey helps build trust, guide culturally responsive services, and ensure that RCOs are shaped by the very people they aim to serve.

◆ Section 1: About You (Optional Demographics)

Please note: All questions are optional and confidential.

1. What is your age?

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–24 ☐ 25–34 ☐ 35–44 ☐ 45–54 ☐ 55–64 ☐ 65+

2. How do you identify your gender?

☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Nonbinary ☐ Prefer to self-describe: _____ ☐ Prefer not to say

3. How do you identify your race or ethnicity?

☐ Black / African American
☐ Afro-Latinx
☐ Multiracial
☐ Other: _____
☐ Prefer not to say

4. Do you have lived experience with addiction or recovery?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

◆ Section 2: Recovery Support Needs

5. **What types of recovery support would you or others in your community benefit from?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Peer recovery coaching
- ☐ Faith-based recovery support
- ☐ Harm reduction (Narcan, syringe exchange)
- ☐ Medically Assisted Treatment (Suboxone, Methadone)
- ☐ Mental health counseling
- ☐ Housing or sober living
- ☐ Reentry support (formerly incarcerated)
- ☐ Family support services
- ☐ Youth-focused recovery spaces
- ☐ Employment & workforce training
- ☐ Other: _____

6. **What do you think is missing from recovery services in your area?**

7. **What keeps people from seeking recovery support?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Stigma / shame
- ☐ Lack of culturally relevant options
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Cost or lack of insurance
- ☐ Fear of criminal consequences
- ☐ Lack of childcare
- ☐ Not ready / don't want support
- ☐ Other: _____

◆ Section 3: Culture, Trust & Safety

8. **Where do you feel most safe or supported when talking about healing?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Church / mosque / temple
- ☐ Barbershop / salon
- ☐ Home / family

- ☐ Online spaces
- ☐ Community center
- ☐ Peer recovery group
- ☐ I don't feel safe talking about it
- ☐ Other: _____

9. **What could help recovery services feel more culturally safe or relevant?**

- ☐ Black-led staff or peers
- ☐ Use of spiritual or cultural traditions
- ☐ Being located in the community
- ☐ Avoiding stigmatizing language
- ☐ Offering multiple paths to healing
- ☐ Other: _____

◆ Section 4: Final Thoughts

10. **What does healing or recovery mean to you?**

11. **Would you like to be involved in shaping recovery services in your community?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe – please contact me

If yes or maybe, provide your contact (optional):

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Want Support Conducting a CNA?

CAARD can help you adapt this survey, collect responses, analyze results, and turn data into strategy.

Reach out to us to explore facilitation, training, or tech-enabled tools to support your community needs process.

