



**For Immediate Release**

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**Rally for Recovery aims to eliminate stigma and support healing**

MADISON, Wis. – Join Wisconsin Voices for Recovery, and other advocates and allies at the 13th annual [Rally for Recovery](#) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Wisconsin Capitol, King Street entrance.

Rally for Recovery, a statewide event which is free to attend and open to all, is Wisconsin's largest celebration of National Recovery Month.

The rally is held to raise awareness about the harmful impact of stigma, and in support of all pathways to recovery including overdose prevention and safe use practices, according to Cindy Burzinski, director, Wisconsin Voices for Recovery.

Stigma around substance use disorders and overdose prevention methods can create barriers to seeking help, which can have dire consequences, she said.

"This meaningful event brings together recovering Wisconsinites, their loved ones and supporters for an opportunity to connect, reflect, support, celebrate and strengthen the recovery community across Wisconsin, to show people who use substances and who are in or seeking recovery, that there is hope, there are resources and there is help out there," Burzinski said.

Recovery looks different for everyone, and that's exactly why our work has to meet people where they are, according to Michelle Haese, director of substance use initiatives, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

"Every person who has found their path to recovery and every person still searching for theirs deserves our full support," she said.

Substance use touches so many lives, and with many of the veterans we serve, finding the strength to ask for help can be a genuine struggle, said James Bond, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Events like the Rally for Recovery build community and break down the stigma that keeps people from taking that first crucial step," he said. "Thank you to everyone who is supporting this important cause."

This year's event will include remarks from public officials, people in recovery, their loved ones and advocates. There will be resource tables and overdose prevention supplies, craft and wellness activities for all ages, free food, prizes and more. Free Nalox-ZONE boxes will also be available to organizations and businesses who would like to install one at their locations.

“Events like Rally for Recovery can help show those battling substance-use disorder that they're not alone and that others support their recovery efforts, said Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul. “I'm grateful to the folks who provide support to those in recovery.”

Visit the Wisconsin Voices for Recovery [webpage](#) and [Facebook event](#) for more information on this year's rally and a detailed schedule. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery is a part of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

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