

Recovery-based housing at Oxford House

Background

Oxford House is a Level 1 recovery residence for individuals in substance use disorder recovery. Homes operating under the Oxford House model are democratically run, self-supporting and drug-free. Currently there are homes for men, women, men with a child(ren), and women with a child(ren). There is no limit to the length of stay, and six to ten residents may occupy a given house.

According to the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) there are four levels of Recovery Residences. These range from democratically run, self-supporting homes (like an Oxford House) to fully staffed Residential Treatment Facility. In Washington these four levels are divided between housing (levels 1 and 2) and treatment (levels 3 and 4).

Eligibility

Adults in Washington State who are actively participating in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment or who are in recovery from SUD, including those in medication-assisted treatment, are eligible. Receiving medication for an opioid use disorder (known as an MOUD) is not a deciding factor.

Potential residents undergo an interview process whereby they must receive a vote by existing residents of at least 80% in favor. If someone is not voted in, they are able to apply at another Oxford House or reapply any time.

Oversight and authority

Congress established the Oxford House Revolving Fund in 1989. This revolving fund provides loans to establish homes for recovering individuals. The Washington State Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA DBHR) is the state agency responsible for administering the revolving fund.

Start-up house loans, at a maximum of \$4,000 per house, are approved by Oxford House, Inc., and are

repaid to DBHR's revolving fund over a two-year period.

DBHR has oversight to ensure houses are compliant with the contract statements of work and federal requirements.

Budget

The budget is \$1,224,180 annually from federal substance use block grant funds.

For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023-FFY2025, \$50,000 is allotted for start-up costs such as furniture purchases for new Oxford Houses.

Program outcomes

Currently, there are Oxford Houses in 25 Washington counties. As of July 31, 2023, there are 347 houses with 3,047 beds available across Washington State.

Key numbers:

- 56 women's houses are operational and used
- 43 women with child(ren) houses are operational and used, including one on Tribal land
- 223 men's houses are operational and used, including one on Tribal land
- 25 men with child(ren) houses are operational and used

Key partners

Oxford House collaborates directly with the 29 Washington State Federally Recognized Tribes, as well as The Department of Social and Health Services, behavioral health administrative service organizations, behavioral health agencies, county authorities, real state agencies, landlords, local chemical dependency agencies, drug courts, correctional facilities, and other local for-profit or non-profit agencies.

For more information

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