

Recovery Residence Frequently Asked Questions



Registry

The registry of recovery homes in Washington state includes Washington Alliance of Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR) Levels 1 and 2 and all Oxford Houses in the state. The Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) wants to make sure that anyone looking for a recovery home has one place to find all available.

Do all homes on the registry accept clients on medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for instance vivitrol, buprenorphine, and methadone?

Yes, this is required in order to be listed on the registry.

Do all homes on the registry accept clients on medications for the treatment of mental health disorders?

Yes, this is required in order to be listed on the registry.

Do all homes on the registry maintain naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal medication, on site?

Yes, all homes on the registry maintain naloxone on site.

How can a housing provider be listed in the state registry?

A recovery home can be listed on the state registry if it has been accredited by WAQRR and allows for MOUD, is a verified Oxford House or is a verified Tribal recovery home.

Why would a housing provider want to be listed on the registry?

The registry will allow the housing provider to apply for funds from the operating and capital revolving loans. Future funding opportunities may include a requirement to be on the registry.

How do I find a list of recovery homes in my region?

The registry can filter down to the county and city levels. You can click on your county in the map and it will show you the recovery homes in that county, or you can search by county or city in the filters.

Does the registry map have a representative overlay displaying tribal lands?

The map does not currently have this option, but it is something we can consider if the need arises.



Operating Revolving Loan Fund

In 2019 HCA established an operating revolving loan fund for recovery residences using Substance Abuse Block Grant dollars. As the fund was established with federal dollars it needs to operate within the parameters established in **42 CFR § 300x-25**.

Is funding available for operators/owners to open a recovery residence?

Yes, the funds are available for operators and owners to cover operating expenses when opening or updating a recovery residence. This fund is not approved for capital expenditures (i.e., updating the facility itself).

Who can request a loan and how long is the typical process for receiving funding?

Any non-profit recovery residence who is seeking WAQRR accreditation and who allows for MOUD at the property can apply for a loan.

How do I apply for a revolving loan?

Interested parties will be able to apply for the loan on the **HCA web page** for Recovery Residences.

How do you plan to vet applications for start-ups?

The applications are reviewed by a committee to make sure the applications are complete and followed the instructions within the application. For further guidelines see application instructions.

What kind of record keeping is required for the revolving loan fund?

Loan recipients are expected to keep a record of all payments made to HCA for loan repayment; HCA may request this record as needed.

What happens if we are unable to get our residence certified after utilizing the fund?

The loan must be repaid to HCA within 24 months from the origination date. If the residence is unable to receive WAQRR accreditation by that time, the residence will be removed from the registry and may not be able to apply for future funding.



Policies and Procedures

The following questions and answers were provided by the Washington Alliance of Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR) and only apply to WAQRR approved residences. WAQRR is the state affiliate of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) and as such follow national best practices and standards.

What are the house rules for recovery residences?

The rules for each house vary by residence. You can find more information on [WAQRR's website](#).

What are the policies on UA testing?

All accredited housing operators are required to enforce abstinence policies and must regularly test for use of illicit drugs and alcohol with reliable testing methods including urinary and breath analysis.

What are the policies for relapse?

Policies vary depending on the residence, but operators are required to maintain a sober environment in their homes. This usually entails a period of time during which a person who violates the abstinence policy of the home to spend some time out of the home. However, policies about time and conditions of return vary.

What are your policies on resident engagement in their recovery?

Recovery residences operate according to the social model of recovery which values each resident's prerogative to take charge of their own recovery journey within the parameters of the residence where they have chosen to live.

How can I get into a recovery residence?

Accredited homes are listed on the [WAQRR website](#) and the [state recovery residences directory](#) where you will find contact information for each residence. Each residence operator will provide you with information about the specific application process for each of their homes.

Will there be any sort of deposit or move-in fee?

Financial arrangements vary by housing operator.

What is the cost per month for me if I live there?

Financial arrangements vary by housing operator.

How much does it cost to live in a recovery residence?

Rent and fee structures vary by residence provider. Some are set and others are based on resident income.

Will I be required to be involved in a 12-step program?

Recovery philosophies vary by residence operator. Some are 12-step oriented and some are not.

Is this program supportive of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)?

All accredited housing operators who are listed on the state recovery residence directory accept residents who are taking MOUD.

What are the sobriety requirements for living in a recovery residence?

All accredited housing operators are required to enforce abstinence policies to ensure sober living environments and they regularly test for use of illicit drugs and alcohol.

Will there be a probationary period once I enter a recovery residence?

Admission policies vary by residence operator. All accredited operators are required to disclose all admission and financial policies to residents prior to residents signing leases/housing agreements.

Will residents be required to pay rent or a "participation" fee?

Financial policies vary by the residence operator. All such policies must be disclosed to prospective residents prior to lease/agreement signing.

Are there steps in place to protect participant safety, including predatory rent situations?

Resident agreements are reviewed and approved as part of the operator accreditation process to ensure that they are fair to residents and disclosed in advance.

What is the maximum amount of time I can live there?

Length of stay in recovery residences varies from a few months to indefinite periods of time based on several factors including the level of care provided.

Licensing

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Licenses recovery residences. WAQRR accreditation is a means of letting people know a recovery residence follows National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) best practices for recovery residence; it has no relationship to the licensing provided by DOH.

Does the state license recovery residences?

Washington only licenses level 3 and 4 recovery residences. The licensing is done through the Department of Health.

How do I become certified as a Recovery residence?

Please reach out to WAQRR to learn about becoming an accredited recovery residence.

Can a recovery residence program bill Medicaid for services such as Peer Support, Supportive Housing Services, Supported Employment Services, etc.?

As long as the recovery residence has been certified by DOH to provide those services.

General Information

These are the questions that do not fall into one of the previous four categories.

As a recovery residence operator will I have to accept referrals from HCA or others?

HCA does not have a policy on whether recovery homes have to accept referrals. The decision to accept referrals is made by the individual operator.

What resources are available to help set up a recovery residence?

WAQRR offers technical assistance to current and upcoming recovery residences. They offer webinars, one-on-one technical assistance, fidelity review training, seminars (half-day and full day). You can reach out to WAQRR via their [website](#). There is also an operating loan where recovery residence operators can apply for up to \$4000 for start-up and operating costs. The registry of recovery residences in Washington can also help provide contact information to currently operating recovery residences as well.

Is this treatment?

The recovery residences listed on the registry are recovery homes and do not provide treatment services on site. There are recovery residences that are licensed by DOH to provide treatment services and you can find those in the [Behavioral Health Agency Directory](#).

What is considered a recovery residence program?

You can find detailed information on recovery residence programs on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [website](#) and the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) [website](#).

Which houses have clinical staff on site regularly?

Levels 3 and 4 Recovery Residences have clinical staff on site.

Who manages the recovery residence program?

The registry and revolving loan fund is managed by the Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

How do I contact the program administrator for more information?

You can reach out to Heather Maxwell-Rychart, Recovery Residence Oxford House Program Manager at heather.maxwell-rychart@hca.wa.gov.

Is the housing time-limited?

Recovery residences are considered transitional housing. The average length of stay is 3-9 months.

How is shared living defined?

Shared living is an arrangement in which individuals, choose to live together and share life's experiences. The approach is based on a mutual relationship where all parties agree to share their lives.

Has this housing been vetted by WAQRR?

The homes listed on the registry are either accredited by the Washington Alliance of Quality Recovery Residences or Oxford House.