

Oxford Houses of Washington

Overview

An Oxford House is a live-in residence for people in recovery from substance use disorders. An Oxford House describes a democratically self-governed and self-supported drug-free house. Residents are voted in by 80 percent of the house residents based on an interview. Whether someone is in medication-assisted treatment is not a deciding factor. If someone is not voted in, he or she can apply at another Oxford House anytime. There is no length of stay and the house may have from six to 10 residents. There are houses for men, women, men with children, or women with children.

Eligibility requirements

Adults who are actively participating in chemical dependency treatment or in recovery, including those in medication-assisted treatment.

Authority

Congress established the Oxford House Revolving Fund in 1989, which created a revolving fund to provide loans to groups of recovering individuals to establish houses. In Washington, HCA's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is the state agency responsible for administering the revolving fund.

Start-up house loans, for a maximum of \$4,000 per house, are approved by Oxford House, Inc. and are paid back to DBHR's revolving fund over a two-year period.

Budget

\$228,630 annually from federal Substance Abuse Block Grant funds.

In addition, \$200,000 was provided as initial startup to establish a revolving fund loan for use to open new houses throughout Washington.

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

December 2018

Costs and numbers served

There are currently sites in 24 counties around the state:

- 75 women's houses, including one on tribal land
- 34 women with children houses
- 201 men's houses, including one on tribal land
- Nine men with children houses

Rent is established by each Oxford House and paid by the residents.

Partners

Oxford House collaborates directly with the 29 Washington State Federally Recognized Tribes, Behavioral health organizations, counties, the Department of Social and Health Services, real estate agencies, landlords, local chemical dependency agencies, drug courts, correctional facilities, and other local for-profit or non-profit agencies.

Oversight

Oversight is provided by DBHR to ensure houses are compliant with the contract statement of work and federal requirements.

For more information

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- National Oxford House website: www.oxfordhouse.org

