

Recovery Residences

Background

Recovery Residences are for people in recovery from substance use disorders. They provide a home-like environment free from alcohol and illicit drug use with a focus on peer support, assistance with obtaining addiction services, and other recovery services and support.

Recovery residence levels

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 home (like an Oxford House) to a fully staffed Residential Treatment Facility.

In Washington, these four levels are divided between housing (level 1(P) and 2(M)) then treatment level (3(S) and 4(C)). Levels 3 and 4 are treatment levels and are licensed and certified by the Department of Health (DOH) using WAC's 246-311-1108(2) and 246-341-1112.

The current NARR levels are recognizing the updated American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

- Level 1 or Type P (peer-run)
- Level 2 or Type M (managed)
- Level 3 or Type S (supervised)
- Level 4 or Type C (clinical)

Eligibility

Adults in the state of Washington may apply for and be admitted to recovery residences if they meet the eligibility criteria:

- Adults who are in recovery from substance use
- Adults participating in or completing substance use treatment
- Adults who may be unstably housed or homeless

Program outcomes

As of July 31, 2024, there were a total of 187 homes, 1,313 beds across Washington state almost double from the previous year (100).

- Men's residences: 110
- Women's residences: 36
- Family homes: 31
- Shared family homes: 6
- Co-ed residences: 4

Authority

House Bill 1528, enacted by the Washington State Legislature in May 2019 led to the creation of RCWs 41.05.760, 41.05.761, 41.05.762, and 71.24.660 to:

- Create and maintain a registry of approved recovery residences in Washington State.
- Contract with the state affiliate of the NARR to provide technical assistance.
- Establish and manage an operating fund and a capital revolving loan fund for recovery residence operators.
- Allow only licensed and certified service providers to refer clients who are appropriate for recovery housing to homes on HCA recovery housing registry.

Recovery housing registry

The Washington State Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA's DBHR) created an external facing registry and map of qualified recovery residences, Oxford Houses and Tribal recovery homes.

HCA and an advisory workgroup consisting of external stakeholders and partners have included these types of recovery homes so those in recovery can access a single, reliable forum in which to find appropriate abstinence-based housing to assist in their recovery. The registry lists Levels 1(P) and 2(M) residences, as Levels 3(S) and 4(C) are found in the DOH's Behavioral Health Agencies Directory.

All residences on the registry have policies and procedures set up for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and meet quality standards through the Washington Alliance of Quality

Recovery Residences (WAQRR) accreditation process.

As of January 1, 2023, all licensed and certified providers are required to refer clients who are eligible for recovery housing, to housing on HCA recovery housing registry. WAQRR works with housing providers to increase the number of homes available throughout the state. WAQRR continues to educate licensed and certified providers of the requirements.

All accredited recovery residences on HCA's registry will accept residents receiving medication for opioid use disorder (known as MOUD).

Technical assistance

HCA's DBHR has contracted with WAQRR since 2020 to provide technical assistance to recovery residence operators and those interested in becoming recovery residences. The technical assistance provided offers webinars on best practices, trauma-informed care, acceptance of MOUD, licensing and certification by DOH (which would allow for Medicaid reimbursement), and fidelity reviews for current WAQRR-approved recovery residences and those working towards WAQRR approval.

Operating loans and grants

Recovery residences are funded and provided oversight through funds, revolving loans and vouchers approved and enacted on the state and federal levels.

Operating revolving loan fund

\$500,000 from the Substance Abuse Block Grant has been used to create an operating revolving loan fund based on CFR Title 42, Chapter 6A, subchapter 7, part b. The money from this revolving fund is available to any Recovery Residence on the Registry (except for Oxford House, which has its own revolving fund) or any residence working on becoming a WAQRR approved recovery residence.

The money from the fund can be used for start-up costs, including the costs to become licensed and certified by DOH. It can also be used for currently operating residences to pay for implementation of MOUD policies, procedures, and practice. The application is available on HCA's Recovery Residence webpage.

Federal and state grants

The Washington State Legislature enacted 2E2SSB5536 in July of 2023 which appropriated funding for operational costs of newly staffed recovery residences which serve individuals with substance use disorders who require more support than a level 1 (Type P) recovery residence.

A portion of the funding is focused on providing grants to recovery residences which serve individuals in the five most populous counties. As of July 31, 2024, 58 homes have been awarded the operational grant funding.

Substance use disorder short-term housing vouchers

The Washington State Legislature enacted 2E2SSB5536 in July 2023 which appropriated funding to provide short-term housing vouchers for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on providing such resources to people in the five most populous counties of the state.

Budget for FY25

- SUPTRS Block Grant: \$175,000
- State General Funds: \$3,825,000
- Opioid Abatement: \$3,150,000

For more information

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