

Recovery residence program

Overview

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.

Eligibility requirements

- Adults who are newly abstinent or in recovery and want a supportive living environment are eligible.
- Adults participating in or completing treatment and who need supportive affordable housing.
- Adults who are homeless or unstably housed and want a recovery focused environment with others in recovery.

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, ranging from a democratically run, self-supporting home (much like an Oxford House) to a fully staffed Residential Treatment Facility. In Washington, these four levels are divided between housing (levels 1 and 2) and treatment (levels 3 and 4). Levels 3 and 4 are licensed and certified by the Department of Health (DOH) using WACs 246-311-1108(2) and 246-341-1112.

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 the HCA recovery housing registry

Recovery housing registry

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) created an external facing [registry and map](#) of qualified recovery residences, Oxford Houses and Tribal recovery homes. DBHR and an advisory workgroup consisting of external stakeholders and partners decided to include these types of recovery homes so people in recovery will have a single place to find the right type of clean and sober housing to assist in their recovery. The registry lists Levels 1 and 2 residences, as Levels 3 and 4 are found in the DOH's [Behavioral Health Agencies Directory](#). All residences on the registry will 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

Technical assistance

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), fidelity reviews for current WAQRR-approved recovery residences and those working towards WAQRR approval.

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 (with the exception of Oxford Houses, as they have their 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 the DOH. It can also be used for currently operating residences to pay for implementation of MOUD policies, procedures, and practice. The application has been provided on [HCA's Recovery Residence webpage](#).

Referrals by licensed and certified providers

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

WAQRR recovery residence membership

- Total residences: 56
- Total men's residences: 36

- Total women's residences: 15
- Total co-ed residences: 5
- Number of residences allowing MOUD: 45
- Number Level I residences: 0
- Number Level II residences: 56

Budget

Substance Use Block Grant

FFY23 budget: \$ \$266,000

Covid Enhancement Substance Use Block Grant

FFY23 budget: \$175,000

For more information

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