

# Recovery residences

## House Bill 1528

### Overview

Recovery Residences are for people in recovery from substance use disorders. It provides 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. 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, peer run home (much like an Oxford House) to a Residential Treatment Facility for people with substance use disorders. In Washington, these four levels have been 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, instructed the Health Care Authority 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; and
- establish and manage an operating and a capital revolving loan fund to provide funds to recovery residence operators.

### Recovery residence registry

The DBHR is working on creating an external facing registry and map of qualified recovery residences, Oxford Houses and Tribal recovery homes. The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (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 WAQRR's accreditation process


### Technical assistance

DBHR has contracted with the Washington Alliance of Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR) to provide technical assistance to recovery residence operators and those interested in becoming recovery residences. The technical assistance being provided includes 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 will be 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.

### **WAQRR recovery residence membership**

- Total residences: 22
  - 17 homes in process
- Total men's residences: 12
- Total women's residences: 7
- Total men and women's residences: 3
- Number of residences allowing MOUD: 17
  - 13 homes in process
- Number Level I residences: 0
- Number Level II residences: 22

### **Contact**

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