



To: Madam Chair, Vermont House Appropriations Committee

From: Gary De Carolis, Executive Director
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Subject: Difference between Recovery Centers (Turning Points) & Recovery Residences or Sober Homes (Vermont Foundation for Recovery)

Thank you for the opportunity to help clarify the differences between recovery centers and recovery residences. We used to talk about recovery residences as “sober houses” in the past. When someone is new to recovery it is critical that they live in a drug free environment as they begin their journey in recovery from alcohol and/or substance use disorder. During the day people new to recovery visit and take advantage of the recovery centers, many named Turning Points and then at night return to their recovery residence (Sober Houses). The \$1 million request was to lift up the wages and benefits of staff at these recovery residences around the state. Many of them are operated by VFOR (Vt. Foundation for Recovery). The low pay and no benefits that staff at these recovery residences mirrors in many ways the low pay and no benefits of the recovery centers (Turning Points) around the state. Thus, the overall request of \$1.85 million for recovery centers and \$1 million for recovery residences.

I hope this helps in your deliberations. If I can be of any further help, please feel free to call or write.