

Recovery House Inc.  
Serenity House Expansion Project Proposal for One-Time Funding

Recovery House Inc. is a Vermont Nonprofit Organization that has provided substance use disorder treatment to Vermonters for 48 years. A major component of Recovery House offerings is residential treatment provided at Serenity House in Wallingford, Vermont. When the Maple Leaf Farm Treatment Center closed in early 2017, Serenity House was able to partially compensate for the loss of 41 treatment beds by using beds in our Rutland location. Serenity House was able to bring these beds online very quickly by repurposing some transitional housing beds. While these ten beds have served well as a stop gap measure in emergency circumstances, they do not provide detoxification services.

Serenity House has been hard at work planning an addition to our residential treatment center to incorporate these **10 additional beds to (1) provide detoxification services and (2) enhance capacity for women**. There is an **ever-increasing need for treatment for women**, and **pregnant women** are a top priority for treatment. This project provides the capability to provide over 1,400 additional days of treatment to the female population.

Serenity House had hoped to build this addition with funds we have accumulated, because we have always done everything possible to be self-sufficient. However, in order to provide these needed services to Vermonters at a reasonable rate, we need to seek some support from the State.

#### Cost and Savings

We have estimates that the addition and associated interior renovations will cost in the neighborhood of \$750,000. Serenity House can, by using accumulated funds and seeking financing, provide about half of the cost. We are requesting the remaining \$400,000 from the state in order to increase our ability to provide detoxification services and services to women. Please keep in mind that detox services are far more expensive in a hospital setting, so we believe this is a sound fiscal investment, and it is in line with other Addiction Recovery efforts in Vermont. This is an opportunity to save Vermonters a tremendous amount of money.

- A hospital detoxification will carry bed costs of approximately \$1,000/day, while detoxification at Serenity House will cost a little more than \$200/day.
- During FY 17 Serenity House provided 202 days of alcohol detox services. The bed costs for these services was about \$50,000. Had these detoxes been done in a hospital, the bed cost would have been over \$200,000.
- In FY 18 Serenity House, has provided about 191 days of detox services through March 22nd. The bed cost for these services was about \$40,000. Hospital costs would have been nearly \$200,000.
- Using very conservative figures this addition has the potential to save Vermonters \$100,000 annually in costs associated with alcohol detoxification (with a payback time of 4 years),

The House has decided to use \$2 million of the recent tobacco settlement toward recovery. We believe that some of that money should go to treatment; it is important that Vermonters receive needed treatment to get on the road for recovery. Treatment and recovery go hand-in-hand.

Thank you. Dale Robb, Ed of Recovery House