

O.C.C. Call to Action, January 2018

- ◆ “Recovery Residences are a central component of successful long-term recovery” – along with services and communities without stigma
- ◆ “Vermont’s regions vary widely in housing and program availability.”
- ◆ “There is a lack of recovery housing quality standards in Vermont and a registry of certified recovery residences does not exist.”
- ◆ Surveyed professionals serving people with SUD and found:
 - 99% of respondents engage in conversations with clients around their housing needs
 - 51% stated that the majority of their clients have housing situations that are interfering with their recovery efforts
 - Greatest challenge is a lack of recovery/sober living environments and affordable housing



Recovery Housing Needs

- ◆ Vermont has a serious SUD problem affecting more than 50,000 residents, or one in 10 individuals over age 12. Only DC has a higher concentration of SUD.
- ◆ Over 11,000 Vermonters currently receive treatment for SUD but there is only enough recovery-purposed spaces to serve 205 people, statewide
- ◆ 5 communities - Rutland, Middlebury, Bennington, Morrisville, and Springfield - whose service areas make up more than 1/3 of Vermonters receiving SUD treatment, have no recovery living spaces at all
- ◆ 76% of existing recovery home beds are reserved for men and 24% for women, though women currently make up 42% of all Vermonters receiving treatment for SUDs
- ◆ No recovery homes are dedicated to single mothers with dependent children, despite there being more than 30% of new admits to treatment in 2017 who were women with dependent children
- ◆ 2/3rds of recovery homes and beds are located in Chittenden County, although only 23% of Vermonters in treatment for SUD live in the county.

What are Recovery Residences

- ◆ Recovery Residences are synonymous with sober housing, one type of recovery support service
- ◆ A shared-living environment free from alcohol and illicit drug use, centered on peer support and connections that promote sustained recovery from substance use
- ◆ RR range in type and intensity of services with options that cost-effectively match the diverse and changing needs of residents; our first focus is on Level 1
- ◆ For successful recovery we need homes, services and strong supportive communities free of stigma



Downstreet's Statewide Coordination of Housing for People & Families Affected by SUD

- ◆ **Comprehensive housing needs study (February 2019)**
- ◆ **Certification for Recovery Residences (VTARR due June 2019)**
- ◆ **Strong partnership between housing and service providers (on-going)**
- ◆ **Housing Developer's toolkit (due April 2019)**
- ◆ **Family SASH pilot (September 2019)**
- ◆ **Funding for rental assistance (on-going)**
- ◆ **Coalition of supporters, reduce stigma**