

**Recovery House Inc. - Serenity House/Grace House**  
**Senate Institutions Committee**  
**FY 2020 Capital Bill**  
**April 9, 2019**

In the 2018 Legislative session, Recovery House came forward requesting \$400,000.00 to partially fund the cost of an addition at Serenity House in Wallingford, Vermont. We are grateful for the \$300,000 that the Legislature awarded this project.

Much of the recent focus has been on outpatient services, but many people need residential programs. Residential care, for those with substance abuse disorder, is a very important part of recovery - people may need to get away from everything that triggers their addiction and focus on their recovery. Patients live at the program during their entire stay. Their days are structured in such a way as to support their recovery, and they are held accountable. This is often the safest and healthiest place for them to be.

Recovery House provides needed alcohol detoxification services at a rate far below what is typically charged in a hospital setting. The cost savings is approximately \$1000/client/day. Given the cost of serving alcohol detoxification clients in hospitals in Vermont, Serenity House represents substantial long-term savings to Vermonters. Conversations with our Legislators indicated that, in last year's difficult budget year, \$300,000 was what could be provided, and that a return to the Legislature with an ask for the remaining \$100,000.00 would be reasonable. That brings us to our request this year.

The ten new beds consist of six beds for alcohol detoxification suitable to Vermonters in need of Substance Use Disorder treatment, and four beds for opioid detoxification and/or treatment and alcohol treatment for males or females.

The construction is almost complete. There were, of course, pitfalls along the way, such as foundation reengineering and design when excess water was discovered during excavation and framing modifications, all of which added substantially to the cost of the project. Recognizing the need for increased funding for the project, Recovery House applied for, and received, a USDA Rural Development Equipment Grant that offset a portion of expenses. This grant provides 35% of the material costs (not installation) for limited aspects of the project.

Remaining costs associated with the completion of the project, with applicable USDA contributions

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>USDA grant</u>	<u>Request</u>
Foundation and Framing	125,000	0	125,000
Security camera system for Wallingford and Rutland <i>Vermont Department of Corrections would be more comfortable sending clients to these locations if the security was improved.</i>	40,000	11,200	28,800
Refrigeration <i>Department of Aging and Independent Living survey requires appropriate refrigeration, which will result in long term cost-reduction based on electricity consumption.</i>	30,000	10,500	19,500
Heat/Hot Water/AC <i>A new boiler, hot water and air conditioning is required. Recovery House is changing from an oil-fired burner and a wood fired burner to a modern system combining two high efficiency boiler units and heat pumps throughout the buildings.</i>	55,000	10,000	45,000
Emergency Power <i>Department of Aging and Independent Living's survey revealed that Recovery House has very little backup/emergency power</i>	30,000	7,000	23,000
Recovery Transportation Network <i>To eliminate transportation as a barrier to treatment, we will purchase a vehicle for Serenity House and a van for Grace House. We will work with the Vermont Recovery Network and the Turning. This will reduce the inefficiencies associated with "no shows to treatment".</i>	43,500	15,525	27,975
Furniture <i>We need to replace nearly all the furniture in Serenity House, as well as purchase the furniture needed for the addition project.</i>	19,000	5,007	13,993
Educational Technology <i>Substance abuse services can be improved through educational technology This equipment opens the door to telehealth, which has beneficial impacts in substance abuse treatment. This includes smart boards, pen displays, capture boards, projector boards, etc.</i>	35,100	12,285	22,815
Operational Technology <i>With the move to digital storage of information and increasing information protection requirements, we need to retool. We need Think pads, Signature pads and improved copy, scan and fax equipment.</i>	49,450	17,307	32,143
Laundry <i>We need commercial style laundry equipment. We have clients bring a limited number of clothing items and do laundry. With a capacity of thirty-four clients, this can lead to some long laundry lines</i>	6,000	2,100	3,900
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$433,050</b>	<b>\$90,924</b>	<b>\$342,126</b>