

The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

An affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences

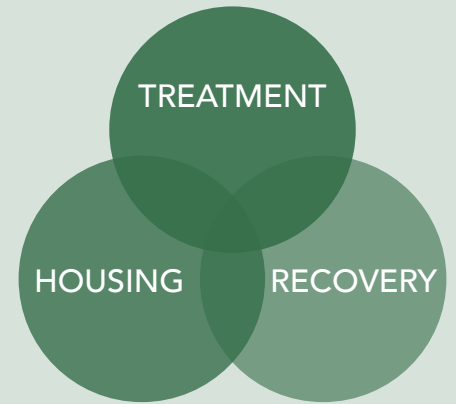
PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Over 1 in 10 Vermonters 12 years and older has a Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and over 75% of Vermonters in treatment for SUD face housing insecurities.

The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) is a non-profit organization with a primary focus on high quality, supportive housing for individuals experiencing SUD. VTARR is establishing a voluntary certification process, based on national standards for four levels of Recovery Residences in Vermont. Through certification, VTARR is developing a

certified network of Recovery Residences to provide individuals needing supportive recovery environments a safe, supportive, and sober environment to sustain their recovery from SUD.


Research shows participation in a Recovery Residence decreases in-treatment and post-treatment relapse rates and significantly increases recovery outcomes (using such recovery measures as sustained abstinence rates, improvements in global health and social functioning) at up to two-years of follow-up.



WHAT IS A RECOVERY RESIDENCE?

A Recovery Residence (sometimes referred to as Sober Home, Halfway House, Oxford House™, Transitional House) is a sober (free from alcohol and illicit drug use) and affordable community-based residence dedicated to supporting individuals to live independently in the early stages of recovery from SUD. Recovery Residences are most often single-family homes, but multi-family recovery apartment buildings are growing as a common approach outside of Vermont. Residents are expected to financially contribute for their housing, and commit to not using alcohol or illicit drugs during their residence. Most individuals' stays are between 5 and 12 months.

NARR identifies four levels of Recovery Residences, with varying levels of support and service provision based on the level of supervision and independence appropriate to the individual's wellbeing.

		RECOVERY RESIDENCE LEVELS OF SUPPORT			
		LEVEL I Peer-Run	LEVEL II Monitored	LEVEL III Supervised	LEVEL IV Service Provider
STANDARDS CRITERIA	ADMINISTRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratically run • Manual or P & P 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House manager or senior resident • Policy and Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational hierarchy • Administrative oversight for service providers • Policy and Procedures • Licensing varies from state to state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen organizational hierarchy • Clinical and administrative supervision • Policy and Procedures • Licensing varies from state to state
	SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Screening • House meetings • Self help meetings encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House rules provide structure • Peer run groups • Drug Screening • House meetings • Involvement in self help and/or treatment services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life skill development emphasis • Clinical services utilized in outside community • Service hours provided in house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical services and programming are provided in house • Life skill development
	RESIDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally single family residences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily single family residences • Possibly apartments or other dwelling types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies – all types of residential settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types – often a step down phase within care continuum of a treatment center • May be a more institutional in environment
	STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No paid positions within the residence • Perhaps an overseeing officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 compensated position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility manager • Certified staff or case managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credentialed staff

H. 783 AN ACT RELATING TO RECOVERY RESIDENCES

Committee: General, Housing, and Military Affairs

Sponsored by: Killackey of South Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Chase of Colchester, Christie of Hartford, Coffey of Guilford, Colburn of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Gardner of Richmond, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, LaLonde of South Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Page of Newport City, Rachelson of Burlington, Redmond of Essex, Stevens of Waterbury, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford and Wood of Waterbury.

The Bill Seeks to:

1. Provide partial exclusion to landlord tenant law for recovery residences
2. Require operational policies and procedures pertaining to residential agreements, temporary removal, separation, and drug testing
3. Offer a common definition for recovery residences
4. Require municipalities to treat a recovery residence as a single-family residential home under land use by-laws.

Benefits of Bill:

1. Endorses safe quality recovery-oriented housing for individuals dealing with substance use disorder
2. Prohibits discrimination including against individuals who are receiving medically-assisted treatment
3. Reduces stigma and unnecessary cost and delays in establishing recovery residences
4. Deals with reoccurrence while ensuring the safety of the individual and other members of the home
5. Protects individuals under corrections supervision from unnecessary incarceration

MISSION: VTARR's mission is to support those in recovery from SUD by improving access to Recovery Residences through: established standards, a fair and transparent certification process, education, technical assistance, research, and advocacy.