



## Recovery Partners of Vermont

### *Request to support Vermont's 16 Certified Homes (Recovery Residences)*

Recovery residences provide a homelike setting for individuals recovering from addictions by offering peer support, an environment built around Social Model principles, and assistance with support services and community resources. Recovery residences promote norms that reinforce healthy living skills and associated values, attitudes, and connection with self and community for sustaining recovery. Peer support offers credibility and accountability through lived experience and has been proven as an important bridge between treatment and successful long-term recovery. Recovery residences offer healing and hope that lasts a lifetime and not only helps someone get sober, but stay sober.

Vermont's Recovery Residences have calculated an average funding gap and need for state support of \$190,000 per certified home, totaling \$3,040,000 in need for the 16 residences that will be in operation in fiscal year 2025.

Currently, Vermont's recovery residences receive around \$1,155,000 in state and federal funding. **To fill the gap, RPV and the VT Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) are requesting an additional...**

... **\$1,559,000** in base funding if the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee's recommendation to appropriate \$325,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds to the Recovery Residence Scholarship Program is approved and supported by the General Assembly.

... **\$1,884,000** in base funding if the Recovery Residence Scholarship Program is not funded with Opioid Settlement Funds.

These base increases will help support the operational costs of Vermont's 16 certified homes. Our three largest operational costs are:

1. **Staff salaries & benefits** – Vermont's 16 certified homes currently employ 35 people across the state, and most of these employees are people in recovery. Additional base funding from the state will help ensure we can provide competitive salaries and benefits to attract an experienced and qualified workforce that can meet the needs of residents.
2. **Property costs & maintenance** – Most recovery organizations do not own the residences they operate, but rather work with local housing providers and VHCBS to access quality housing at an affordable rate.
3. **Utilities** – State support in covering the cost of utilities ensures that rising utility costs are not passed on to residents, helping to keep recovery residences more affordable for those who need a safe, sober space.

The \$325k in scholarship funding is intended to cover the initial entry expense to a residence while the individual finds employment and creates early stability for themselves. Recovery residences are effective and must be accessible to anyone who has made a personal commitment to recovery. We believe scholarship funding is critical for ensuring that no one is denied the opportunity to live in a recovery residence due to a lack of funds, which is why our base funding request changes to include scholarship funding if scholarships are not funded with Opioid Settlement Funds, as recommended by the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee.

A base increase of \$1,559,000 includes:

- An increase in Vermont Foundation of Recovery's (VFOR) base budget by **+\$1,070,476**
- An increase in Jenna's Promise base budget by **+\$129,375**
- \$359,149 in base funding for remaining certified homes, including **+\$19,774** for Second Wind and a starting base of \$339,375 for another two, new certified homes

**Future Growth:** Additionally, RPV, VFOR and the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences fully expect to see growth in the number of Recovery Residences in Vermont to the tune of **2-3 new certified homes per year for the next 5 years**. As new certified homes come online, we will be requesting approximately **\$190,000 in new base funding per certified home, subject to increase with inflation**. From FY26-FY29, the General Assembly can expect to see a request for increased base funding for new certified homes between \$380,000 - \$570,000 per fiscal year.

NOTE: The “remaining need” range for each organization represents the change in need depending on whether or not scholarships are funded with Opioid Settlement funds. The smaller number represents the base increase needed if scholarships are funded with Opioid Settlement funds (these are the base increase numbers listed above), while the larger number represents the base increase needed if scholarships are not funded with Opioid Settlement funds, in which case, we roll the amount needed for scholarships into our base request.

Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 existing Certified Homes</li> <li>● 2 new homes open in FY25</li> <li>● Currently receives \$626,399 in state/federal funding</li> <li>● <b>Remaining need = \$1,070,476 – \$1,273,601</b></li> </ul>
Jenna’s Promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 Certified Homes</li> <li>● Currently receives \$400,000 in base funding from the state</li> <li>● Higher operational costs than average</li> <li>● <b>Remaining need = \$129,375 – \$170,000*</b></li> </ul>
Second Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 Certified Homes</li> <li>● Lower operational costs than average</li> <li>● <b>Remaining need = \$19,774 – \$60,399</b></li> </ul>
New Certified Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 new Certified Homes as part of the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences</li> <li>● <b>Requesting \$339,375 – \$380,000 in new appropriations</b> based on the \$190k per certified home average</li> </ul>

**DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL FUNDS:** Vermont’s recovery residences have been working together all summer to calculate their average cost needs, and to determine the appropriate distribution of funds based on each organization’s unique needs. Jenna’s Promise, Second Wind, VFOR and the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences agreed to submit a request for appropriations based on the AVERAGE need per home (\$190k x 16 homes = \$3,040,000) and have subtracted what the existing homes currently get in state and federal funds ( \$3,040,000 - an approximate \$1.155M) and the separate request for scholarships (\$325,000) to get to our final range of what we are requesting for state appropriations for FY25.

\*Of course, the true need differs across Vermont’s Recovery Residences. Jenna’s Promise has higher operational costs than average because the Jenna’s Promise program provides a different level of staff support and programming as part of a holistic, long-term care model. As a result of this intensive model, Jenna’s Promise has Vermont’s only level-3 certified home and serves justice-involved individuals as well as survivors of sexual and domestic violence including human trafficking, necessitating a highly-trained, professional staff providing coverage at all times. This explains the discrepancy in math for Jenna’s Promise requesting an amount that is above the average cost of their number of homes. In contrast, Second Wind has lower operational costs than average given the smaller scale of their operations and programming. All RPV members support the cooperation among recovery residences and respectfully request that the Legislature leave the distribution of funds flexible to support each certified home’s unique needs.