

Memorandum

To: Senate Institutions
From: Chadd Viger, Chief Executive Officer, Recovery House, Inc.
Date: April 20, 2023
Re: FY 2024 Appropriation Request

I am testifying today to request the inclusion of capital improvements to Serenity House and Grace House in the Capital Bill this year.

Recovery House is a long-standing (50 years) substance use treatment organization, providing evidenced-based treatment to those struggling with addiction. As you consider legislation for capital improvements, we ask you to consider the resources available to this population, and the needs of the providers - including Recovery House, which operates Serenity House and Grace House.

Recovery House operates on minimal margins - 95% of the people we serve rely on Medicaid and several of our buildings date as far back as the late 1800s. One can imagine the type of facilities upgrades that are needed. Many capital improvement needs have developed over the years. The last significant capital improvement investment was in FY19-20, when Serenity House developed an addition – increasing the overall bed capacity for ASAM 3.7 Level of Care treatment in Vermont (adding more detoxification services beds). During our clients' stay (a time of vulnerability), it is important for them to experience an environment that is not only physically inviting, but is economically efficient, especially given our reliance on state and federal funding through Medicaid. We want to ensure that our dollars – and yours – are put to good use and that our operations run efficiently – dollars are not wasted on, for example, heat loss due to lack of weatherization or a leaking roof.

Recovery House is requesting funds related to capital improvements, because these desired upgrades directly benefit our clients and can serve to positively influence the outcomes. It is well researched that treatment environments have an impact on outcomes, but with minimal margins, Recovery House has had to prioritize other client needs throughout the years.

We are requesting \$300,000.00, which will be used to repair roofs, address weatherization issues and general energy efficiencies, update exterior efficiencies and appearances, update kitchen fixtures, and provide furniture updates.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.