

# Governor's Budget



February 18, 2026

## House Committee on Human Services

Written Testimony of:        Jeffrey Moreau, Executive Director  
   Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

Thank you Chair Wood and Members of the House Committee on Human Services for your time this morning. My name is Jeff Moreau, and I am the Founding Executive Director of the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR). For the past 16 years, I have also served as a surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international accrediting body for behavioral health and substance use disorder. I have nearly 35 years of experience in non-profit leadership roles and find my work with VTARR to be among the most impactful and rewarding experiences in my career.

I want to begin this morning by acknowledging the Vermont Legislature's strong and sustained commitment to recovery. Your investments in recovery centers, peer support, partnerships with corrections, recovery housing, and the recent establishment of reengagement beds at Valley Vista and Grace House represent significant cornerstones and progress in strengthening Vermont's recovery system.

**We strongly support the commitment to prioritizing recovery housing within Vermont's broader housing strategy, including goals to add 250 certified beds, ensure coverage in every county, support specific populations, reduce barriers to access, and implement ongoing monitoring and quality improvement through data. Any investments that brings on new certified beds is welcome and needed.**

Recovery Residences support Vermonters with substance use disorder and alcohol dependence. They are not treatment, but for many offer a vital option for individuals seeking recovery many of whom would not sustain recovery if their only options were to return to the environment and/or trauma that fueled their addiction. They offer a safe, substance-free environment rooted in peer support—often removing individuals from settings that fuel addiction. Residents live together as a family, sharing meals, responsibilities, and activities while emphasizing structure, accountability, employment, and service to the community. Research consistently shows that recovery residences improve long-term recovery outcomes, including reduced substance use and relapse, lower incarceration rates, increased employment, and improved family functioning.

VTARR is Vermont's affiliate to the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). Certification is voluntary and includes substantial technical assistance, particularly for new operators. Certification is incentivized through access to funding, scholarships, training, and other supports—it is not intended to be mandated. We follow evidence-based practices, including those established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. NARR Certification recognizes four levels of certification; however, in Vermont we do not certify level 4 as that is considered treatment and currently managed under the Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living (DAIL).

We look forward to future discussions regarding S.157, which codifies proven practices and the certification process developed over the past two years, and we urge you to make this framework permanent. As you know, prior to 2019, Vermont had no oversight or best-practice guidelines for recovery residences. Today, there are more than 150 certified beds across 20 residences statewide. VTARR administers a scholarship fund to ensure that financial need is not a barrier to access. Most importantly, certified operators have demonstrated effective responses to relapse and threatening behaviors while safeguarding the wellbeing of other residents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Recovery residences work. They are cost-effective—and as I have shared they work. I am happy to answer any of your questions today or in the future.

With Gratitude,



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