

Recovery Partners of Vermont

[Recovery Partners of Vermont](#) (RPV) is the umbrella member organization for Vermont’s local recovery organizations and residences, which work across the state to support individuals and their families in their recovery from alcohol and other substance use disorders.

RPV is asking the General Assembly to support the following appropriations in the FY26 Budget:

1. **\$1,600,000** increase in base funding for Vermont’s local recovery organizations (Sec. B.313)
2. **\$360,000** increase in base funding for Vermont’s certified recovery residences (Sec. B.313)
3. **Opioid Settlement Funds – Recovery Appropriations:**
 - a. **\$1,500,000** to support startup and operational costs of recovery residences (Sec. E.313.1)
 - b. **\$325,000** to provide scholarships to cover first month fees for individuals entering a recovery residence (Sec. B.1100)
 - c. **\$500,000** to establish an Oral Health Fund for people in early recovery (new)

Recovery Organizations Base Increase: **+\$1,600,000 (Sec. B.313)**

Recovery organizations are local, self-directed, inclusive organizations that provide a dynamic set of peer-led services and support for helping people realize the power they have to break free from their addiction. Recovery looks different for every individual, and recovery organizations work with every individual to get them the support they need at the time they need it, offering healing and hope that lasts a lifetime.

Recovery organizations have seen a significant increase in demand for our services as Vermont continues to address the opioid public health emergency. Many of our recovery organizations are well poised to make a leap forward programmatically and expand services, but lack the revenue to do so without state support. An increase in base funding for recovery organizations will allow these organizations to **extend hours of operation** (including new opportunities to open centers on weekends), **match external funding sources** to further increase services, and offer **competitive wages** to attract and retain a skilled workforce.

State investment in recovery organizations is an upstream investment in prevention with long-term cost savings.

People who receive strong wraparound recovery services are less likely to experience a relapse, and every relapse prevented correlates to savings in treatment services, which we know is the most costly and least preventative of the Vermont Department of Health’s substance use programs system of care:

SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS SYSTEM OF CARE



Recovery Residences General Fund Base Increase: +\$360,000

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.

Last year, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$30,000 for recovery residence in Sec. B.313 (consistent with the 3% increase provided to all community service providers), as well as an additional \$1,200,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds with intent language to continue at least this level of funding. We do have an additional request for increased funding through the Opioid Settlement Fund (see below), and Vermont's certified recovery residences have identified a funding gap of \$360,000 that we need to fill through our general fund appropriations.

Certified Recovery Residences Pre-FY25

Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR):

1. Foundation House, Barre (women and women with children)
2. Fort Essex 1 (men)
3. Fort Essex 2 (men)
4. Fort Essex 3 (women)
5. Morrisville (women)
6. Rutland (men)
7. St. Albans (men)
8. St. Johnsbury (men)

Jenna's Promise:

1. Johnson 1 center, Phase 1 House (women)
2. Johnson 2 center, Phase 2 Coffee Shop (women)

Second Wind Foundation:

1. Willow Grove, White River Junction (women and women with children)
2. Jack's House, White River Junction (men and men with children)

Increased operational funding for certified recovery residences in **FY25** supported the opening of the following residences, **bringing an additional 40 beds online:**

1. VFOR Squire House, Bennington (women) – **9 beds**
2. The Turning Point, Bennington* (men) – **10 beds**
3. Good Samaritan Haven, Barre (people experiencing homelessness) – **15 beds**
4. Springfield Turning Point Recovery House – **6 beds**

*Certification pending. There is still significant need and interest in scaling Recovery Residences in Vermont. Currently, there are **active efforts underway** to bring additional beds online in the following seven geographic areas:

1. Brattleboro
2. Newport
3. Middlebury
4. Randolph
5. Bellows Falls
6. St. Albans

residences, aside from St. Albans which has a home for men, but none for women. There is active planning to open residences in these areas, but these prospective homes do not currently have access to the same state support as existing homes, which is needed to get these projects across the finish line. More recovery residences means more Vermonters can find recovery support closer to home.

This list represents areas where there are **currently no certified recovery**

Opioid Settlement Funds – Recovery Appropriations

Members of Recovery Partners of Vermont (RPV) received three appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund in FY25: \$1,200,000 to support ongoing operational costs of recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (Sec. E.313.1); \$325,000 to provide scholarships to cover first month fees for individuals entering a recovery residence (Sec. B.1100); and \$1,060,000 to expand The Turning Point of Rutland’s recovery coach model statewide (Sec. B.1100). This year, RPV is requesting the renewal of funds for recovery residence operations and scholarships, as well as an additional \$500,000 to establish a statewide Oral Health Fund for RPV members. We are NOT currently requesting the renewal of the \$1,060,000 for recovery coaches in FY26 because the Department of Corrections has applied for a federal earmark for this program and we anticipate receiving those federal funds.

\$1,500,000 (+300,000) to support startup and operational costs of recovery residences (Sec. E.313.1)

Sec. E.313.1(b) of the budget states that “It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2025 levels through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund”. The \$1,200,000 in FY25 supported 13 existing and 2 new residences in Vermont (an average increase of \$80,000 per residence). There is significant interest across the State in scaling access to recovery residences with emphasis on regions that do not have this resource. The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences anticipates that at least 3 of these locations will be operational in FY26, which lack the existing state and federal funds that current operators receive. We are therefore requesting an **additional \$300,000 to support the startup costs of these 3 new homes** (\$100,000 per home), for a new total appropriation of \$1,500,000 from Opioid Abatement Special Fund to support startup and ongoing operational costs of recovery residences in FY26. These investments correlate directly to an increased number of beds available for people in early recovery.

\$325,000 (level funding) to provide scholarships to cover first month fees for individuals entering a recovery residence (Sec. B.1100)

Sec. E.312.1(e) of the FY25 budget bill directs the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee to “give priority consideration to services requiring funding on an ongoing basis”, which includes both recovery residence operations and residence scholarships. Scholarship funding ensures that no one is denied the opportunity to live in a recovery residence due to a lack of funds, and we respectfully request the renewal of scholarship funding, at its current level, to ensure that recovery residences remain accessible to anyone who has made a personal commitment to recovery.

Scholarship funding is intended to cover the initial entry expense to a residence while the individual finds employment and creates early stability for themselves. The journey to lifelong recovery is paved with hope and concrete supports and services to help people realize their power to stay sober, and scholarship funding helps to create that hope with the concrete support of financial aid.

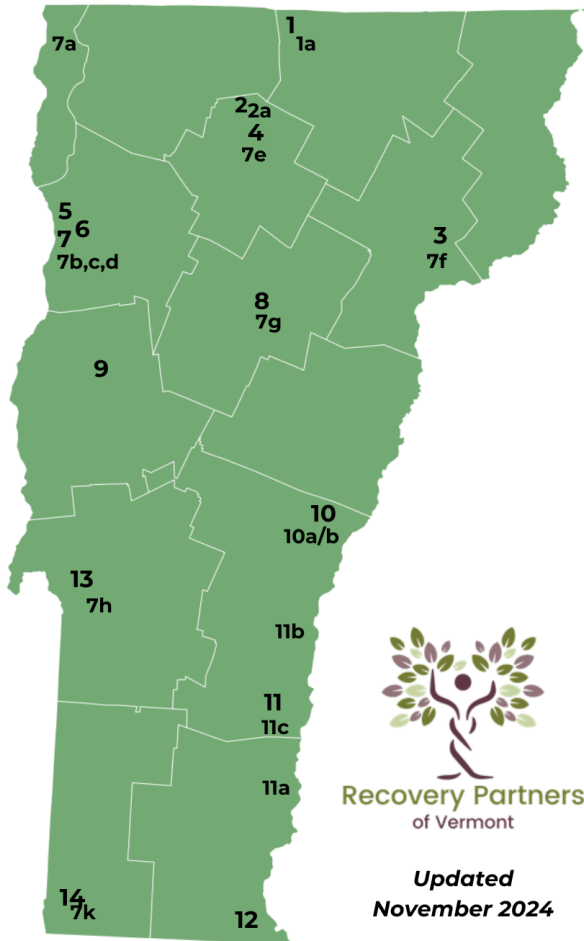
\$500,000 to establish an Oral Health Fund for people in recovery (new)

RPV is requesting \$500,000 to pilot a centralized Oral Health Fund *in lieu of* recurring funding for recovery coaches. This request stems from a real need seen in the field. One of the most common characteristics we see in the people we serve is extremely poor dental conditions, **which is a precursor to many health and medical issues as well as premature death**. Visible oral health problems can also negatively impact job

prospects and economic opportunities. Furthermore, Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) further harms oral health, so even those in recovery may suffer from dental issues that individuals who are not in MMT do not experience. For all these reasons, there is **a serious need for the people we serve to receive dental work as part of their journey to a healthy and dignified life**, and yet, most of these individuals cannot afford the dental work they need. Currently, most recovery providers do not have the funds to cover this service. The requested \$500,000 in FY26 will be used to pilot a centralized Oral Health Fund which every RPV member can access to help cover highest need dental work for people in recovery across the state of Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration. Addiction is a complex issue, but the solution is simple - provide the supports and services people need to stay in recovery. RPV sees the three appropriations outlined above as critical for helping to support Vermonters in recovery, which directly helps to prevent someone's continued misuse of substances. Together, we can ensure that every Vermont has access to a self-fulfilling and dignified life.

Member Organizations of Recovery Partners of Vermont



- 1.....Journey to Recovery Community Center | Newport
 - 1a...Satellite Office | North Country High School
- 2.....Jenna's Promise | Johnson
 - 2a...Recovery Residence | Rae of Hope
- 3.....Kingdom Recovery Center | St. Johnsbury
- 4.....North Central Vermont Recovery Center | Morrisville
- 5.....Turning Point Center of Chittenden County | Burlington
- 6.....Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences | Burlington
- 7.....Vermont Foundation of Recovery | Essex
 - 7a...Recovery Residence | St. Albans
 - 7b, c, d...Recovery Residence| Essex (3)
 - 7e...Recovery Residence | Morrisville
 - 7f...Recovery Residence | St. Johnsbury
 - 7g...Recovery Residence | Barre
 - 7h...Recovery Residence | Rutland
 - 7k...Recovery Residence | Bennington
- 8.....Turning Point Center of Central Vermont | Barre
- 9.....Turning Point Center of Addison County | Middlebury
- 10...Upper Valley Turning Point Center | White River Junction
 - 10a...Recovery Residence | Willow Grove
 - 10b...Recovery Residence | Jack's House
- 11.....Turning Point Center of Springfield | Springfield
 - 11a...Satellite Office TP South | Bellows Falls
 - 11b...Satellite Office TP North | Windsor
 - 11c...Recovery Residence | Springfield
- 12.....Turning Point Center of Windham County | Brattleboro
- 13.....Turning Point Center of Rutland | Rutland
- 14.....Turning Point Center of Bennington | Bennington



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Questions and comments can be directed to RPV Executive Director, **Gary De Carolis**

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