

TO: Senate Committee on Health & Welfare
FROM: Recovery Partners of Vermont
RE: Proposed Report Language for Recovery Service Organizations
May 5, 2025

Dear Chair Lyons,

Recovery Partners of Vermont respectfully submits this memo to express our deep concern with the Department of Health's proposed reporting language for recovery service organizations in regard to funding in H.293. In particular, the [proposed language](#) reads:

(1) The report shall include information on the following:

- (A) fund source, including all State appropriated funds, federal funds, and funds from all other sources including but not limited to, fundraising, donations, and municipal funding;*
- (B) the recipients of the funds specified in subdivision (1)(A) of this section or otherwise designated for recovery services*

As 501(c)(3)s, this information is publicly available through our annual 990 tax review. Our concern is, the State of Vermont has grant agreements with hundreds of nonprofit organizations around the state, and they are not asked to report on this level of detail to the State. This leaves us asking the question, ***why is there an undue burden being placed on recovery service organizations only and specifically?***

As with most nonprofits, recovery service organizations fundraise independently **primarily to cover costs that are not eligible for grant funding, such as special community events and outreach; or to supplement grant funding to cover the total costs associated with service.** Donations generally do not go into the mixing bowl of covering ongoing operational or administrative costs, such as payroll. Instead, they are primarily used to provide additional services to the community and complete miscellaneous projects that would otherwise not happen. Independent fundraising is very unpredictable and often one-time; it is not an indication of sustained financial health for recovery services organizations.

Treating these temporary funds as indicators of financial health risks creating a misleading picture of organizational stability. This raises a critical concern: would a one-time donation result in reduced state funding in a future year, even if that funding is not renewable or sustainable?

While Recovery Partners of Vermont acknowledge that there is more work to do to create equity and parity in recovery service organizational budgets around the state, and to stabilize the system, we see this proposed language as an **undue burden placed on recovery service organizations only.** There are many organizations with much larger budgets that receive state funding, and they are not asked to provide this level of reporting.

RPV respectfully asks the Senate Committee on Health & Welfare to not amend H.293 with the proposed VDH reporting language. Thank you for your consideration.

Questions and comments can be directed to RPV Executive Director, **Suzie Walker**

Email: suzie@vtrecoverynetwork.org | Phone: (802) 579-4560 | www.vtrecoverynetwork.org

