

FY27 Budget Needs for Vermont's Certified Recovery Residences

Recovery residences provide a homelike setting for individuals recovering from addiction by offering peer support, an environment built around Social Model principles, and assistance with support services and community resources. Recovery residences are **shared living environments** that promote healthy living skills, help individuals rebuild their life, and foster a sense of connection with self and community for sustained recovery.

All funding requests for Vermont's certified Recovery Residences for FY27 have gone through the Opioid Settlement Advisory Council's application process for FY27 Opioid Abatement Funds. These requests include:

1. **+\$350,000 for ongoing operational support** for a growing number of certified residences, for a total appropriation of \$1,750,000 in Opioid Funds
2. **+\$300,000 for startup costs** to continue to scale at an average rate of 3 new homes per year
3. **+\$250,000 for Recovery Residence scholarships**

\$250,000 to provide scholarships to cover first month fees for individuals entering a recovery residence

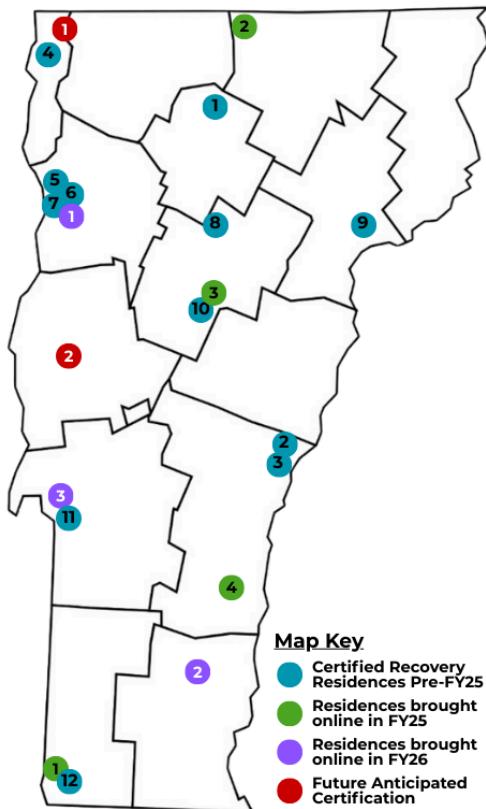
- Scholarship funding is intended to cover the initial entry expense to a residence while the individual **finds employment and creates early stability for themselves.**
- This funding ensures that no one is denied the opportunity to live in a recovery residence due to a lack of funds.
- Opioid Settlement funds from FY25 were carried forward to continue providing this incentive through FY26, and **we anticipate drawing down remaining funds in FY26.**
- Vermont's certified recovery residences are advocating for **changes to the grant agreements** to ensure these funds can be used effectively in FY26. Two changes that we see as necessary are:
 - a. Allowing scholarship funding to cover an additional 2-4 weeks when needed
 - b. Allowing operator discretion for second asks for individuals who were either unable to secure employment in the first month despite best efforts, or came back to a residence after experiencing a relapse.

To date, this funding has helped to support **159 individuals** across all locations with certified recovery residences.

**"Thank you for helping me finance my next step toward sobriety AKA Freedom!
It was the only way I could be where I am today."**
–Member, VFOR's Essex Men's Recovery Home

Recovery Residence Operational & Startup Support

Certified recovery residences are currently working to **scale this resource across Vermont**, so that **every** individual who is recovering from addiction has the opportunity to start their lifelong road to recovery in a homelike setting with **peer support, a safe environment, and assistance with support services** and community resources in a substance free environment.



Recovery Residences in VT

Certified Recovery Residences Pre-FY25:

1. Jenna's Promise, Rae of Hope, Johnson (women)
2. Second Wind Foundation, Willow Grove, White River Junction (women)
3. Second Wind Foundation, Jack's House, White River Junction (men)
4. VFOR, St. Albans (men)
5. VFOR, Essex A/B (men)
6. VFOR, Essex (women)
7. VFOR, Essex C/D (men)
8. VFOR, Morrisville (women)
9. VFOR, St. Johnsbury (men)
10. VFOR, Barre (women & children)
11. VFOR, Rutland (men)
12. VFOR, Bennington (women)

Residences brought online in FY25:

1. Paradise House, Bennington (men)
2. Ben's House, Newport (men)
3. Good Samaritan Haven, Barre (people experiencing homelessness)
4. Springfield Turning Point Recovery House (co-ed)

Residences brought online in FY26:

1. 10 Beds added at VFOR Essex women's location
2. Springfield Turning Point, Chester
3. Common Ground Recovery, Rutland (men)

Future Anticipated Certification:

1. Hope Grove, St. Albans
2. VFOR, Middlebury



Recovery Residences are in a time of rapid expansion in Vermont, which is why operational and startup costs are needed each year.

As new homes come online, they need to be added to the inventory of residences that receive state funding for ongoing operations, as new recovery homes lack the existing state and federal funds that current operators receive.

At the same time, one-time dollars are needed each year to continue the planning & development of approximately **3 new homes per year** so we can meet the demand of Vermonters in early recovery.

Recovery Residences are a piece of the puzzle to addressing our homelessness crisis in Vermont

Recovery Residences are an important piece of the puzzle, **but they are not the only solution**. As shared living environments for people in very early recovery, certified residences are not the appropriate resource for ensuring that every Vermonter can access housing. At the same time, we are a critical housing resource for many people who suffer from co-occurring issues of substance use and homelessness:

- ★ **58% of all residents across Vermont enter into a certified recovery residence from homelessness**
- ★ In FY25, **100% of residents** at the Springfield Turning Point Recovery House and The Good Samaritan Haven (both level 2 certified homes) entered the residences **from homelessness**.
- ★ In order to be certified, every operator is required to have **contingency management plans** for each resident, which outlines options available to each individual if they violate program requirements. Upon entry, every resident is required to provide emergency contact information as well as options for places they can go if they return to use or otherwise engage in behavior that puts the overall health and safety of the home at risk. Operators work hard to ensure that every individual has a safety plan in place and to follow that plan.

Questions and comments can be directed to VTARR Executive Director, **Jeffrey Moreau**

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