

Please Support S.157!

- ★ **Codify the nationally recognized certification process for Recovery Residences**
- ★ **Establish Rulemaking authority at the Vermont Department of Health**
- ★ **Provide for the safety and successful recovery of all individuals**

Language in Sec. 2(b)(1)(C) effectively ensures the safety of all residents when an individual relapses or engages in behaviors that jeopardize the recovery and well-being of others in the residence.

- While some residences do have stabilization beds available, **Vermont's recovery residences do not provide clinical treatment services**, and any individual who relapses needs a safe space with clinical services.
- We appreciate the efforts across Vermont to **increase access to treatment and stabilization beds**. This helps to ensure that individuals have a safe place to go if they are threatening the health and safety of other residents.
- The application of Vermont's **landlord-tenant law** to recovery residences has been a barrier to scaling this resource in Vermont. This bill makes permanent a legislative solution that has proven to be effective.

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

VTARR is a credentialing entity recognized by the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs. VTARR works with Vermont's certified homes to develop discharge policies that align with VTARR and the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) evidence-based standards which already include best practices established by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- [Act 163, 2024](#) established State oversight of certified recovery residences

Scalability

There is strong interest in having a recovery residence in every community across Vermont where there is a recovery center. Under the alliance of RPV, residence operators are able to work closely with Vermont's recovery centers to establish new homes and to make these new residences available for the specific populations that each community has identified the greatest need for:

men, women, parents with children, LGBTQ+, etc.

Carrie's Story, Vermont Foundation of Recovery

After years of heavy drinking, Carrie's health deteriorated severely. Determined to change, Carrie quit drinking on April 1, 2024 and spent two and a half weeks in the hospital. Upon discharge, she committed to sobriety and entered a two-week program at Valley Vista. However, upon completion, she found herself homeless with nowhere to go. That's when the Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR) accepted her application.

Carrie found immense support at The Barre Foundation Recovery Home. *"I got a lot of support as a member of VFOR—I have not relapsed."* With support and hard work, Carrie recently received a promotion at her job with ReSource and moved into VFOR's transitional apartment in Barre. This new living environment will offer her more independence while still receiving the benefits of VFOR membership. *"Things are going incredibly well; I couldn't have done it without the accountability, support, and security from VFOR. I was able to re-find myself."* – Carrie, Barre

Questions and comments can be directed to Jeffrey Moreau, ED of Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

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