

April 8th, 2025

To: Virginia "Ginny" Lyons, Senate Health and Welfare Committee

From: Kate Blouin, Director Hope Grove Recovery, INC

Women's Recovery Residence, Franklin County, VT

Program Summary:

Established a Level III certified recovery residence for women in Franklin County, creating a vital healing environment where individuals can rebuild their lives with supportive services to recovery, develop crucial life skills, and emerge as empowered community members. Our home will provide a vital bridge for women between intensive treatment and independence, generating community benefits through reduced healthcare costs, decreased criminal justice involvement, strengthened families, and an expanded workforce.

The Need

- In a 2017 needs assessment, St Albans has been seen as one of the top 3 areas needing women-specific recovery housing.
- Women-focused services are not available in the Northwest Region.
- Women face distinct challenges in addiction recovery, including higher rates of trauma, childcare responsibilities, and co-occurring mental health conditions.
- In Vermont, only one Level III program in the state currently focuses on specialized women's programming.

Impact

- Recovery housing reduces public costs of housing, healthcare expenditure, and criminal justice expense
- The total return on investment of the organizations over 15 years is \$7.16 per dollar invested.

House Annual Operational Budget: \$479,960.

Call to Action

We respectfully request staffing/operational costs funding to start our first women's recovery housing in St Albans City, Vermont. We cannot solve the addiction crisis in our community while ignoring the specialized needs of women in recovery. Every week without this resource costs us in lives, families, and communities resources.

Sincerely, Kate Blouin

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