

## Recovery Center FY27 Budget Needs

Recovery organizations (centers) are local, self-directed, and 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.**

### Vermont's local recovery organizations are asking the Legislature to please support the following appropriations for fiscal year 2027:

1. **Please level fund \$800,000 in Prevention Funds**, with language specifying how funds shall be allocated
2. **Please support the \$1,100,000 appropriated in H.660 (FY27 Opioid Abatement Funds)** to continue the successful peer recovery coaching program within our correctional facilities.

### The Need to Level Fund Prevention Funds (\$800k):

Recovery organizations have seen a significant increase in demand for our services, and we expect this trend to continue as federal actions make it harder for individuals who are struggling with substance use to access resources and services. Recovery organizations are also seeing an increase in the number of visitors who are accessing recovery spaces for more general support as other community partners and local agencies downsize or close. In particular, we have seen an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness who access our space. We do everything we can to support any individual who comes through our doors.

#### Recovery organizations provide more than recovery services only:

- ★ **Concrete supports for people experiencing homelessness:** Recovery centers collect and distribute warm clothes, blankets, and other winter gear for people experiencing homelessness.

- ★ **Meals / Food Distribution:** Many centers offer meals in coordination with local partners. I.e. The Turning Point Center of Rutland is a member of the Vermont Foodbank's local network and serves 100-150 people per week.

- ★ **LGBTQ+ and Other Support Groups:** Many recovery centers host support groups for members of the LGBTQ+ community, adolescents and teens, fathers, and other designated groups.

- ★ **Free Community Space:** Recovery centers are free, safe, warm, public spaces for anyone who needs them. Any individual can come in and utilize the space, which can mean anything from just staying warm and dry for the day, to playing games, to using our phones and computers to access other services.

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

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

Email: [suzie@vtrecoverynetwork.org](mailto:suzie@vtrecoverynetwork.org) | Phone: (802) 579-4560 | [www.vtrecoverynetwork.org](http://www.vtrecoverynetwork.org)