

## Recovery Residence program implementation

### Overview

Recovery Residences are for individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery. These residences are meant to provide a home-like setting free from alcohol and illicit drug use with a focus on peer support, assistance with obtaining addiction services, and other services and support.

### Recovery residence levels

According to the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), there are four levels of Recovery Residences. These range from a democratically run, self-supporting home (like an Oxford House) to a fully staffed Residential Treatment Facility.

In Washington, these four levels are divided between housing (levels 1 and 2) and treatment (levels 3 and 4). Levels 3 and 4 are licensed and certified by the Department of Health (DOH) using WACs 246-341-1108. The accredited recovery residences in Washington state are all Level 1 (peer ran like Oxford House) and Level 2, which indicates the presence of program staff within the housing program.

### Eligibility

Adults in the state of Washington may apply for and be admitted to recovery residences if they meet the eligibility criteria:

- Adults who are newly abstinent, or in recovery from substance use and want a supportive living environment
- Adults participating in or completing treatment and who need supportive affordable housing
- Adults who are homeless or unstably housed and want a recovery focused environment with others who are also in recovery

### Authority

House Bill 1528, enacted by the Washington State Legislature in May 2019 led to the creation of RCWs [41.05.760](#), [41.05.761](#), [41.05.762](#), and [71.24.660](#) to:

- Create and maintain a registry of approved recovery residences in Washington State.
- Contract with the state affiliate of the NARR to provide technical assistance.
- Establish and manage an operating fund and a capital revolving loan fund for recovery residence operators.
- Allow only licensed and certified service providers to refer clients who are appropriate for recovery housing to homes on the HCA recovery housing registry.

### Recovery housing registry

The Washington Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA DBHR) created an external facing [registry and map](#) of qualified recovery residences, Oxford Houses and Tribal recovery homes.

DBHR and an advisory workgroup consisting of external stakeholders and partners have included these types of recovery homes so those in recovery can access a single, reliable forum in which to find appropriate abstinence-based housing to assist in their recovery. The registry lists Levels 1 and 2 residences, as Levels 3 and 4 are found in the DOH's [Behavioral Health Agencies Directory](#).

All residences on the registry will have policies and procedures set up for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and meet quality standards through the Washington Alliance of Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR) accreditation process.

### Technical assistance

DBHR has contracted with WAQRR since 2020 to provide technical assistance to recovery residence operators and those interested in becoming recovery residences. The technical assistance provided offers webinars on best practices, trauma-informed care, acceptance of MOUD, licensing and certification by DOH (which would allow for Medicaid reimbursement), fidelity reviews for current WAQRR-approved recovery residences and those working towards WAQRR approval.

### Operating loans and grants

Recovery residences are funded and provided oversight through funds, revolving loans, and vouchers approved and enacted on the state and federal levels.

## Revolving loan fund

The Substance Abuse Block Grant was used to pull \$500,000 to create an operating revolving loan fund based on CFR Title 42, Chapter 6A, subchapter 7, part b. The money from this revolving fund is available to any Recovery Residence on the Registry (with the exception of Oxford House, which has its own revolving fund) or any residence working on becoming a WAQRR approved recovery residence.

The money from the fund can be used for start-up costs, including the costs to become licensed and certified by the DOH. It can also be used for currently operating residences to pay for implementation of MOUD policies, procedures, and practice. The application has been provided on [HCA's Recovery Residence webpage](#).

## Federal and state grants

The Washington State Legislature enacted 2E2SSB 5536 in July of 2023, which appropriated funding in Fiscal Year 2024 for \$2,000,000 of the state general fund. Another \$3,000,000 of the state general fund Opioid Abatement Program was appropriated through proviso in the 24/25 Operating Budget passed in May of 2023.

These funds are for operational costs of newly staffed recovery residences that serve individuals with substance use disorders who require more support than a Level 1 recovery residence. Funding will continue in FY25.

Going forward, a portion of this funding will focus on providing grants to recovery residences that serve individuals in the five most populous counties of the state. Information will be provided on [HCA's Recovery Residence webpage](#) when the program is launched.

## Substance use disorder short-term housing vouchers

The Washington State Legislature enacted 2E2SSB 5536 in disorders, with a focus on providing such resources to people in the five most populous counties of the state. Funding will continue at the same level in FY25. July of 2023, which also appropriated funding in Fiscal Year 2024 for \$3,750,

000 of the state general fund to provide short-term housing vouchers for individuals with substance use

## Budget for Technical Assistance

Fiscal Year 2023:

- \$175,000 SUBG
- \$91,000 SUBG Covid Enhancement

Fiscal Year 2024:

- \$175,000 SUBG
- 150,000 S-GF Opioid Abatement
- \$75,000 S-GF

## Referrals by licensed and certified providers

All licensed and certified providers are required to refer clients who are eligible for recovery housing to housing on the HCA recovery housing registry of January 1, 2023. WAQRR works with housing providers to increase the number of homes available throughout the state. It also continues to educate licensed and certified providers of the requirements.

All accredited recovery residences on HCA's registry will accept residents receiving medication for opioid use disorder (known as MOUD).

## Program outcomes

Currently, there are 200 recovery residences operational and used:

- 100 Level 2 residences
- 51 men's residences
- 24 women's residences
- 25 family homes
- 0 shared family homes
- 0 mixed-gender residences

## More information

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