

Oxford Houses of Washington

Background

Oxford House is a Level 1(P) recovery residence for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. Homes operating under the Oxford House model are democratically run, self-supporting and drug-free home. There are homes for men, women, men with a child(ren), or women with a child(ren). There is no limit to the length of stay, and six to ten residents may occupy the house.

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 democratically run, self-supporting home (like an Oxford House) to a fully staffed Residential Treatment Facility. In Washington, these four levels are diving between housing (levels 1(P) and 2(M)) and treatment (levels 3(S) and 4©).

The current NARR levels are recognizing the updated American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

- Level 1 or Type P (peer-run)
- Level 2 or Type M (managed)
- Level 3 or Type S (supervised)
- Level 4 or Type C (clinical)

Eligibility

Adults who are actively participating in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment or in recovery from SUD, including those in medication-assisted treatment, are eligible. Receiving medication for an opioid use disorder (known as MOUD) is not a deciding factor.

Potential residents undergo an interview process whereby they must receive a vote by existing residents of at least 80% in favor. If someone is not voted in, they are able to apply at another Oxford House or reapply at any time.

Oversight and authority

Congress established the Oxford House Revolving Fund in 1989. This revolving fund provides loans to establish homes for groups of recovering

individuals. In Washington, the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is the state agency responsible for administering the revolving fund.

Start-up house loans, at a maximum of \$4,000 per house, are approved by Oxford House, Inc., and are repaid to DBHR's revolving fund over a two-year period.

Oversight is provided by HCA's DBHR to ensure houses are compliant with the contract statements of work and federal requirements.

Oxford House expansion

The Washington State Legislature in July 2024 appropriated funding for additional outreach workers to support the expansion of Oxford Houses in Washington State.

Substance Use Disorder Short-term Housing Vouchers

The Washington State Legislature enacted 2E2SSB5536 in July 2023 which appropriated funding to provide short-term housing vouchers for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on providing such resources to people in the five most populous counties of the state.

Budget for SFY 25

The budget is \$1,224,180 annually from federal substance use, prevention, treatment and recovery services (SUPTRS) block grant funds, \$750,000 from state general funds and \$750,000 from opioid abatement settlement account.

Program outcomes

Currently, there are Oxford House in 25 Washington counties. As of July 31, 2024, there are 355 houses and 3129 beds available across Washington State.

- 61 women's houses
- 40 women-with-child(ren) houses including one on tribal land
- 229 men's houses, including one on tribal land
- 25 men-with-child(ren) houses

Key partners

Oxford House collaborates directly with the 29 Washington State Federally Recognized Tribes, Behavioral Health Administrative Service

Organizations, behavioral health agencies, counties, the Department of Social and Health Services, real estate agencies, landlords, local chemical dependency agencies, drug courts, correctional facilities, and other local for-profit or non-profit agencies.

For more information

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