

Establishing Recovery Residences

A Vermont Recovery Home Blueprint

June 2, 2025

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Dedication & Acknowledgment

We want to take a moment to dedicate this blueprint to all those who have lost their fight with recovery, to those who still struggle with substance use disorder (SUD), to those who continue to persevere in their recovery journey, and to their families, friends, and neighbors who support them every step of the way. Your courage and resilience inspire us all.

Special recognition is given to the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) and the Vermont Foundation for Recovery (VFOR) for their foundational support and guidance. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping this blueprint and advancing recovery initiatives across the state. We are especially grateful to Candace Gale, Director of Community Relations at VFOR, whose insights and groundwork provided the basis for much of the content in this document.

Substance use disorders affect millions of individuals and their families, creating significant challenges for communities across the nation. These disorders can lead to a range of adverse outcomes, including health complications, strained relationships, financial difficulties, and legal issues. The ripple effects of substance use disorders extend beyond the individual, impacting families, friends, and entire communities.

Who We Are and How We Got Involved

We are a six member group of cohorts in Leadership Champlain's class of 2024-2025, a program run by the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce. Our team is composed of individuals from diverse backgrounds and different companies, but we share a common bond: each of us has been touched by substance use in one way or another. This may be on an individual basis, through family or friends, or simply from witnessing its impact on our community.

Our journey began by interviewing various area agencies that address substance use and recovery in different capacities. It was through our interviews and discovery process, we were fortunate to connect with Kate Blouin, who was in the process of opening a recovery home. Inspired by her dedication and mission, our group decided to partner with Kate to support her efforts in establishing Hope Grove Recovery in Franklin County, Vermont. We have witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of individuals working to make a difference in the field of recovery, and we commend Kate Blouin and others for their unwavering commitment.

Our involvement in this project has been a humbling and enlightening experience, and we are honored to have played a small part in supporting Kate with Hope Grove Recovery and for the opportunity of creating this blueprint. Our hope is that one day, there will be no need for recovery residences because substance use disorder will no longer exist. Until that day comes, we aim for this blueprint to be a valuable resource for those dedicated to establishing recovery homes in Vermont, ensuring that every individual seeking help and support has access to a bed in a recovery residence.

The Importance of Recovery Homes

Recovery residences play a crucial role in addressing substance use challenges by providing a stable and nurturing environment where individuals can focus on their recovery journey. The structured environment of recovery residences fosters accountability, discipline, peer support, and a sense of community, which are key elements that help individuals develop the skills necessary for long-term sobriety. For many, especially those who were previously unhoused or are transitioning from inpatient treatment, recovery residences provide a crucial opportunity to build new habits in a healthier setting, away from past stressors and triggers. The sense of belonging within these homes is essential for combating the isolation often experienced by those struggling with substance use disorders.

In addition to providing emotional and social support, recovery residences often offer practical resources such as life skills training, employment assistance, and connections to community services. These resources equip residents with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and achieve sustainable recovery. The holistic approach of recovery residences addresses not only the immediate need for sobriety but also the long-term goal of reintegration into society as healthy, productive individuals.

The impact of recovery residences extends to the broader community as well. By reducing rates of relapse and stabilizing individuals, these homes contribute to lower crime rates and decreased homelessness. Recovery residences also foster positive relationships with local stakeholders, including law enforcement, businesses, and community organizations, creating a network of support that benefits both residents and the community at large.

Recovery residences are an essential component of the response to substance use disorders. They provide a comprehensive support system that addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by individuals in recovery, promoting healing, growth, and community integration. If you are considering supporting recovery, we genuinely thank you and we hope this blueprint will help guide you in your process.

Step One: Understanding the Recovery Model

Support, Responsibility, & Long-Term Recovery

Recovery residences provide a safe and structured living environment for individuals recovering from substance use disorders. This means that the homes are designed to be free from alcohol and illicit substances, ensuring a secure space where residents can focus on their recovery without external temptations or triggers.

Peer Support

A key component of recovery residences is peer support. Residents live together and support each other through shared experiences and mutual encouragement. This peer-driven approach helps individuals feel understood and less isolated, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Personal Responsibility

Residents are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their recovery journey. This includes adhering to house rules, participating in house meetings, and contributing to the upkeep of the residence. Personal responsibility helps individuals build self-discipline and accountability, which are crucial for long-term recovery.

Long-Term Recovery Focus

The primary goal of recovery residences is to support long-term recovery. This involves not only helping residents achieve sobriety but also equipping them with the skills and resources needed to maintain their recovery over time. This can include life skills training, employment support, and connections to community resources.

Vermont's Adherence to NARR Standards

Vermont recovery homes adhere to the standards set by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). These standards ensure that recovery residences operate with best practices for safety, accountability, and support. NARR standards can be located in [step two](#).

Vermont-Specific Regulations

In Vermont, certified recovery residences are regulated to ensure they meet the high

standards set by NARR. The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) oversees the certification of these homes that is set based on the national standards, ensuring they provide safe, ethical, and supportive environments for individuals in recovery.

Resources

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Standards: Provides standards for recovery residences to ensure safe, healthy, and supportive living environments. URL: <https://narronline.org/standards/>

Vermont Department of Health - Recovery Residences: Offers information on recovery residences in Vermont, including certification and support services. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/system-care-enhancement/recovery-residences>

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR): Vermont offers a voluntary certification process based on standards developed by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) serves as Vermont's Affiliate to NARR. <https://vtarr.org/>

Fletcher Group Recovery Housing Resources: Offers technical assistance, research, and best practices to support the development of safe, sustainable recovery housing, especially in rural communities. Partners with NARR and federal agencies to expand recovery ecosystems nationwide. <https://www.fletchergroup.org/>

Step Two: Develop a Business Plan & Funding Strategy

Select a NARR Level

Level I: Peer-run homes with minimal structure. TYPE P

Democratically run alcohol and illicit substance-free recovery homes. Oxford Houses are the most widely known and researched example as indicated by their inclusion in SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 2023). Level I recovery residences maintain a recovery-supportive culture and community using house rules and peer accountability. The key characteristic of a Level I is that they are democratically governed.

Level II: Monitored homes with structured rules and policies. TYPE M

Frequently called sober homes or sober living. They are alcohol and illicit substance-free recovery housing that utilize house rules and peer accountability to maintain safe and healthy living environments. Senior residents, appointed by the owner/operator to serve as the head of household, are typically called the House Manager. To serve higher needs/lower recovery capital populations, such as transition aged youth (e.g., youth 16-25 years of age) with opioid use disorders, some Level II's provide recovery support services and life skills development but at a lower intensity than Level III's.

Level III: Supervised homes with on-site staff and programming. TYPE S

Delivers weekly, structured programming including peer-based and other recovery support services (e.g. recovery and resiliency groups or person-driven recovery plans) and life skills development programming (e.g., job readiness or budgeting). Staff are supervised, trained, or credentialed and are often graduates of a recovery residence. Level III's are designed to support populations who need more intense support in developing recovery capital than provided by Level I or Level II. Level III's are required to be licensed in a few states, reflecting the therapeutic nature of the services provided.

Level IV: Clinical treatment-based models (not typically part of VTARR). TYPE C

Integrates the social and medical model typically using a combination of supervised peer and professional staff. In addition to peer-based recovery support, recovery

support services, and life skills development, Level IV's offer clinical addiction treatment. While all Level IV residence programs incorporate clinical treatment services, treatment programs lacking essential social model organizing principles would not qualify as Level IV recovery residences. Throughout the 1990s, many treatment programs discontinued their social model elements, a distinct departure from today's residential community approach. An example of a Level IV is a recovery residence that implements social model care in a therapeutic community.

Draft Organization Bylaws

Create policies and procedures for Operational Guidance (incorporate this into the business plan below). [See step six](#) for more details on policy specifically.

Draft a Business Plan Document

Business Overview: provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the recovery housing initiative, including the name, certification level, and overarching mission. The target population message should outline gender and age specifics and identify clearly that this is for individuals recovering from addiction and substance use disorder. These individuals are seeking a stable, peer-supported living environment to sustain their recovery journey.

While these residences are not treatment programs, they are closely connected to Recovery Centers which are peer-run, community-based resources that offer support groups, volunteer opportunities, job-seeking assistance, and other recovery-oriented services. Residents often engage with these centers during the day as part of their ongoing recovery and reintegration into the community. It is important to emphasize that Recovery Centers are not clinical treatment providers, but rather essential supports within the broader recovery ecosystem.

Services: supervision level, expand on staffing at the house (director full time? part time? onsite house coordinator, assistant house support staff?), support with transportation, home furnishing and amenities, nutrition options, peer recovery support services, community meetings, wellness recovery action plan ([WRAP Program](#)), lifelong information for entrepreneurs ([LIFE PROGRAM](#)). Consider all recovery resources and

how the home will incorporate them i.e. Turning Point Centers, Restorative Justice Center, DAIL: HireAbility and VDOL counselors, colleague student mentoring, and other mentorship connections.

House Rules: Incorporate well defined expectations for all residents. For example, monthly contribution (fees), no alcohol or drug paraphernalia permitted, established drug testing cadence, safety plan for admission, minimum recovery base meetings, guest hours and overnight policy, volunteerism in the community. Ensure new residents sign an admissions agreement with requirements.

Management Team: outline biography of director and operators as needed. Recruitment of board members, potential employees, and volunteers.

- Capital Requirements and Use of Funds. Estimate startup and operating costs, including property, staffing, utilities, food, and services. What's feasible for your organization? Lease versus Buy?

Budgeting Property Acquisition / "Development Budget": If your plan is to own the home rather than rent, it is essential to develop a comprehensive acquisition and development budget. This should include the purchase price, due diligence (e.g., surveys, environmental assessments, certifications, historic preservation considerations, and zoning compliance), and closing costs. A detailed "sources and uses" breakdown should be created to track capital inflows (e.g., grants, donations, and fundraising) and expenditures.

Given the challenges and unpredictability of renting in the current housing market, especially for recovery residences, many nonprofits have found ownership to be a more sustainable model. For example, organizations like VFOR have moved away from renting from private landlords and instead partnered with local housing providers such as Champlain Housing Trust. These partnerships allow for the acquisition and renovation of properties specifically for use as recovery residences, reducing maintenance burdens and unexpected costs. Additionally, such collaborations can foster long-term relationships with affordable housing providers, potentially creating future housing opportunities for residents as they transition to more independent living.

Budgeting Carrying Costs and Start Up Expense: Estimate costs for the time between property acquisition and start of program to ensure carrying costs are met and well researched. This should include considerations of construction, remodeling, and other capital expenditures, which include grants and fundraising to be considered for sources of cash.

Budgeting Operating Model: Ensuring continuity. Identify all costs involved in the operation of the recovery residence. Sources and uses for support/staff/programming, location, administrative, contingency.

- Identify funding sources ([see step seven](#))

Resources

NARR Standards – National Alliance for Recovery Residences: Defines the four levels of recovery residences (I–IV), outlining governance, staffing, and service expectations. Essential for selecting the appropriate model and ensuring compliance with national best practices. <https://narronline.org/standards/>

NARR National Standard 3.0 Compendium: A comprehensive guide detailing the operational, ethical, and structural standards for recovery residences. Useful for drafting bylaws, policies, and business plans. <https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NARR-National-Standard-3.0-Compendium.pdf>

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Resource Library: Offers best practices, ethical standards, and operational guidance for recovery residences. Includes templates and policy examples for: Governance, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) policies, and fair housing compliance. <https://narronline.org/resources/>

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP Program): A self-designed wellness and recovery system that helps individuals manage mental health and life challenges through personalized action plans. <https://www.wellnessrecoveryactionplan.com/what-is-wrap/>

Lifelong Information for Entrepreneurs (LIFE Program): A program by Mercy Corps Northwest that provides entrepreneurial and personal development training to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals to support successful reentry and financial independence.

<https://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases/mercy-corps-northwest-entrepreneurship-program-expands-empower-incarcerated-men>

Champlain Housing Trust – Community Land Trust Model for Recovery Residences:

CHT partners with nonprofits to acquire and renovate properties for recovery residences. This model reduces costs, ensures long-term affordability, and creates pathways for residents to transition into permanent housing. <https://www.getahome.org>

Step Three: Secure a Suitable Property

Location Selection

Choose a residentially appropriate location that aligns with local zoning laws and VTARR certification standards. A recovery residence serving not more than eight persons is now considered by right to constitute a permitted single-family residential use of property, provided it meets certification requirements. This means such residences are treated similarly to single-family homes in zoning terms and do not require special permits, unless local bylaws limit the number of single-family dwellings per lot.

Each municipality in Vermont has unique zoning laws. Any entity looking to open a recovery residence should consult local zoning boards and the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR).

According to VTARR standards, recovery residences must comply with the following:

- The residence must be in good repair, clean, and well maintained.
- Furnishings should be typical of those in single-family homes and apartments as opposed to institutional settings.
- Entrances and exits are home-like vs. institutional or clinical.
- There must be 50+ square feet per bed per sleeping room.
- There should be a minimum of one sink, toilet, and shower per six residents.
- Each resident must have personal item storage.
- Each resident must have a food storage space.
- Laundry services must be accessible to all residents.
- All appliances must be in safe, working condition.

Safety & Housing Codes

In Vermont, a single-family residence is subject to normal building codes and standards, including the following:

- **Fire and Building Safety Codes:** Vermont adopts nationally recognized safety standards, including the International Building Code (IBC) and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.
- **Electrical and Plumbing Codes:** The state follows the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70) and the International Plumbing Code.
- **Energy Standards:** For homes whose construction began after July 1, 2024, residential buildings must comply with Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES), which regulate insulation, ventilation, and energy efficiency.
- **Permit Requirements:** While single-family, owner-occupied homes generally do not require a state construction permit unless connected to a public water or sewer system, recovery residences must comply with zoning regulations.
- **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Vermont mandates specific requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in single-family dwellings, such as functional smoke detectors in all bedroom spaces, functional carbon monoxide detectors, regular inspections of all detectors and fire extinguishers, etc.

Check proximity to key resources, such as recovery centers, recovery meetings, job opportunities, public transit, and healthcare.

Consider purchasing, leasing, or working with a housing partner. [See step seven](#) for funding options.

There are a few options for recovery residences when it comes to the mechanism of ownership of the property. The residence can own the property outright; the residence can be leased from a private landlord potentially in partnership with a nonprofit; or a

nonprofit or recovery entity can own the property and lease it to the recovery residence.

Funding is the largest concern, from the initial capital to purchase property, to the annual costs of operation and maintenance. [See step eight](#) for details on funding options.

Resources

Vermont Zoning Law Update (Act 22, 2024): Recovery residences serving up to eight individuals are now classified as single-family residential uses by right, if certified or pending certification by an approved organization. Municipalities may not impose stricter zoning unless certification is delayed beyond 45 days.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT022/ACT022%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Zoning and Location Guidelines: Recovery residences in Vermont are typically classified as single-family homes, allowing up to eight unrelated adults. Zoning laws vary by town, so consult local zoning boards before opening a residence.

<https://vtarr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/What-type-of-zoning-is-required-for-a-recovery-residence>

VTARR Certification Standards: VTARR certifies recovery residences based on national standards, requiring home-like settings, adequate space, personal storage, and safe, functional appliances. <https://www.vtarr.org/certification.php>

Vermont Building and Safety Codes: Residences must meet state codes, including fire safety, electrical, plumbing, and energy efficiency standards.

<https://firesafety.vermont.gov/buildingcode/codes>

Step Four: Engage the Community and Address Concerns

To successfully set up a recovery home, it's essential to involve the community and address their concerns. This means identifying key stakeholders, clearly communicating the benefits, answering community questions, and building partnerships and support networks.

Key Stakeholders

Begin by identifying and engaging with key stakeholders, such as neighbors and residents, municipal leaders (like selectboards, city councils, and planning commissions), law enforcement and first responders, local businesses and employers, and faith-based organizations.

Proactively Communicate the Benefits

Organize community meetings before opening the recovery home to present the concept and address any concerns. Share data and success stories that illustrate how recovery homes can lower crime rates, stabilize individuals, and enhance neighborhoods. Highlight the house rules and accountability measures in place, such as drug testing, curfews, and peer support. Provide evidence showing that certified recovery residences enhance community safety and stability by reducing relapse and homelessness.

Address Community Questions

When addressing community questions, it is important to provide clear and evidence-based responses:

- **Crime Concerns:** Research indicates that recovery homes help reduce crime rates by providing structure and support for residents. Certified homes adhere to strict policies regarding sobriety, behavior, and community impact.
 - <https://hub.jhu.edu/magazine/2016/spring/nimby-drug-treatment-centers/>
 - https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/impact_of_supportive_housing_on_neighborhood_crime_and_properly_v2.pdf?1468431099

- <https://www.casebook.net/blog/how-does-housing-affect-crime-rates/>
- **Property Values:** Studies conducted indicate that well-managed and integrated recovery homes do not negatively impact property values.
 - https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w25427/w25427.pdf
 - https://furmancenter.org/files/publications/Impact_of_Supportive.pdf
 - https://www.huduser.gov/publications/pdf/support_1.pdf#:~:text=supportive and/or subsidized housing%2C their opposition to,on house prices in the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Safety:** Certified homes have zero-tolerance policies for drug and alcohol use, curfews, supervision, and neighbor-friendly policies. Homes must meet VTARR and NARR safety standards.
- **Accountability:** All residents must follow structured house rules, meet employment or education requirements, and attend regular recovery meetings. Non-compliance results in removal from the home.

Build Partnerships and Support Networks

Collaborate with local law enforcement, town officials, and businesses to build alliances. Establish connections with recovery-friendly employers who could benefit from a stable workforce. Obtain endorsements from local healthcare providers, faith-based organizations, and nonprofits. Host open houses and community tours to enhance transparency and foster understanding.

Resources

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR): Vermont offers a voluntary certification process based on standards developed by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). The Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) serves as Vermont's Affiliate to NARR. <https://www.vtarr.org/>

Vanderburgh Sober Living (VSL): Provides a comprehensive guide to opening a recovery home, covering financial planning, property selection, and home setup.

<https://www.vanderburghhouse.com/insights/opening-a-recovery-home-a-to-z/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Offers best practices for recovery housing, which can be found in their publication.

<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep23-10-00-002.pdf>

Step Five: Register as a Legal Entity & Obtain Certification

Establishing your recovery residence as a legal entity is a critical step toward sustainability, funding eligibility, and community trust. In Vermont, many recovery homes choose to incorporate as nonprofit organizations to access tax-exempt status and grant opportunities.

Form a Nonprofit (501(c)(3)) or LLC

To begin, decide on the legal structure that best fits your recovery residence's mission and funding strategy. Most recovery homes in Vermont choose to incorporate as a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3)) to access tax-exempt status and qualify for grants and donations. Alternatively, forming a Limited Liability Company (LLC) may be appropriate for homes that plan to operate with a more business-oriented model or in partnership with private investors. Each structure has different implications for governance, taxation, and liability, so it is important to consult legal or financial advisors when making this decision.

Register with the Vermont Secretary of State and Obtain an EIN

Once the legal structure is chosen, register your organization with the Vermont Secretary of State. This involves selecting a unique name, designating a registered agent, and filing Articles of Incorporation (for nonprofits) or Articles of Organization (for LLCs). After registration, apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) through the IRS. This number is required for tax filings, hiring staff, and opening financial accounts.

Open a Business Bank Account

With your EIN and incorporation documents in hand, open a dedicated business bank account. This account will be used to manage all financial transactions, including resident fees, donations, and grant funding. A separate account ensures transparency, simplified bookkeeping, and is often required by funders and auditors.

Obtain VTARR Certification

Achieving certification through the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) is essential for demonstrating your commitment to quality, safety, and ethical standards in recovery housing. Certification aligns your residence with the National Alliance for

Recovery Residences (NARR) standards and enhances credibility with residents, funders, and referral partners.

Review VTARR Standards

Begin by familiarizing yourself with the NARR standards, which VTARR uses to evaluate recovery residences. These standards define four levels of support, ranging from peer-run homes to service provider models, and outline expectations for governance, operations, environment, and recovery support.

Submit an Application

Complete the VTARR Recovery Home Certification Application, which includes detailed documentation about your residence's policies, staffing, services, and physical environment. Be prepared to demonstrate how your home meets the applicable level of support.

Undergo a Home Inspection

After submitting your application, VTARR will schedule an on-site inspection to verify compliance with NARR standards. Inspectors will assess safety, cleanliness, resident rights, and the overall recovery environment.

Receive Certification and Maintain Compliance

If your residence meets the standards, you will receive VTARR certification. Certification must be renewed annually, and homes are expected to participate in ongoing training, respond to grievances, and maintain high standards of care.

Resources

Vermont Secretary of State: Nonprofit Corporation Registration

Step-by-step guidance for incorporating a nonprofit in Vermont.

<https://sos.vermont.gov/corporations/registration/domestic-registration/nonprofit-corp/>

Vermont Department of Taxes: Starting a Nonprofit

Explains tax obligations and exemptions for Vermont nonprofits.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/business/start-a-nonprofit>

IRS: Apply for an EIN

Required for banking, tax filings, and hiring staff.

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

IRS: 501(c)(3) Application (Form 1023)

Application for federal tax-exempt status.

<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-1023>

myVTax: Vermont Business Tax Registration

Portal to register for state business taxes.

<https://myvtax.vermont.gov>

IRS – Vermont State Filing Information for Tax-Exempt Organizations

Provides state-specific guidance for nonprofits operating in Vermont.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/vermont>

U.S. Small Business Administration – Vermont District Office

Offers local support, funding guidance, and connections to Vermont-based business advisors. <https://www.sba.gov/district/vermont>

SCORE Vermont

Free mentoring, business plan templates, and nonprofit startup workshops.

<https://www.score.org/vermont>

VTARR Certification Overview

Learn about the certification process, levels of support, and NARR standards.

<https://www.vtarr.org/certification.php>

VTARR Recovery Home Certification Application

Download the official application form and review submission requirements.

<https://vtarr.org/Recovery-Home-Certification-Application>

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Standards

Understand the national framework that guides VTARR certification.

<https://narronline.org>

Contact VTARR for Support

Reach out for technical assistance or questions about the certification process.

Email: info@vtarr.org

Website: <https://vtarr.org>

Step Six: Develop House Policies and Hire Staff

To develop effective house policies and hire staff, consider the following operational framework which will ensure the home supports residents in their journey towards sobriety and personal growth.

House Rules and Agreements

Residents must actively participate in structured recovery programs, including mandatory attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), or equivalent peer-support groups at least three times per week. They should engage in individualized peer coaching, case management, or counseling as directed by staff. Those prescribed Medication-Assisted Treatment must comply with medical directives while adhering to house guidelines regarding medication storage and use.

Behavioral expectations include strict prohibition of the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, illicit substances, or non-prescribed controlled substances. Any form of violence, threats, harassment, or intimidation will result in immediate dismissal. Residents must respect shared spaces, maintain cleanliness, and contribute to household responsibilities.

Drug and alcohol testing policies involve random and scheduled screenings. Refusal to comply will be considered a positive result. Testing procedures include urine, saliva, or breathalyzer testing conducted by house staff, with confirmatory lab testing for disputed results. Residents with positive tests must participate in a review process with staff to determine next steps.

Employment or education requirements mandate that residents maintain full-time employment, be actively enrolled in educational programs, or participate in vocational training. Unemployed residents will receive job coaching and must submit weekly job applications.

Exit policies and transition planning allow residents to leave after completing their program, provided they have an approved transition plan. Immediate discharge will occur for violent behavior, repeated non-compliance, or drug use, though a relapse

intervention plan may be considered for first-time infractions. Successful residents will receive referrals to transitional housing, sober living homes, or independent living programs.

Staffing and Hiring Plan

Required staff roles may include a House Manager responsible for daily operations, resident support, and compliance enforcement; a Certified Recovery Coach providing peer mentoring and crisis intervention; a Case Manager coordinating medical, legal, and employment services; a Licensed Therapist or Counselor offering mental health and substance use disorder counseling; and a Night Supervisor ensuring overnight compliance with house rules.

Hiring criteria require staff to have certifications in addiction recovery, social work, or related fields. Background checks will be conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations. Training will include trauma-informed care, relapse prevention, and de-escalation techniques.

Compliance and Legal Considerations

The recovery home must abide by the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ensuring equal housing access for individuals in recovery. Policies should be informed by National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidelines, and state-specific sober living regulations.

Resources

Best Practices for Recovery Housing - SAMHSA: Outlines best practices for the implementation and operation of recovery housing.

<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep23-10-00-002.pdf>

Fair Housing Rights and Obligations - HUD: Explains the protections under the Fair Housing Act, including rights for individuals with disabilities and obligations for housing

providers, including recovery homes. <https://www.hud.gov/stat/fheo/rights-obligations>

Housing Rights - NARR: Offers guidance on compliance with the Fair Housing Act, reasonable accommodations, and anti-discrimination protections in recovery housing. <https://narronline.org/glossary/housing-rights/>

Recovery Housing Resources - NARR: A collection of policy guides, ethical standards, and best practices for operating recovery residences. <https://narronline.org/resources/>

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Standards: Offers detailed guidance on house rules, resident expectations, and ethical practices across all four levels of recovery residences. <https://narronline.org/standards/>

OrgCode Consulting – Sample Policies for Trauma-Informed Housing-Focused Shelters
A comprehensive 30+ page document with sample policies on intake, guest expectations, harm reduction, de-escalation, and more. Though designed for shelters, many policies are adaptable to recovery residences.
<https://www.endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OrgCode-Sample-ES-Policies-and-Procedures-for-Trauma-Informed-Housing-Focused-Shelter-OrgCode-Template-Version-2017.pdf>

Step Seven: Secure Funding for Property Acquisition and Operations

Vermont offers a variety of funding sources ranging from state grants and federal programs to philanthropic investments that can support the purchase, construction, and rehabilitation of recovery residences. This summary outlines funding opportunities available to organizations and communities seeking to establish or expand recovery housing across the state.

Property Acquisition Funding Options

1. Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) offers grants to support affordable housing initiatives, including the development and acquisition of recovery residences. These funds can be used for a variety of purposes such as property acquisition, rehabilitation, and construction, with a focus on serving low-income and vulnerable populations. VHCB is a state-funded organization dedicated to preserving Vermont's rural character through investments in affordable housing, land conservation, and historic preservation. Interested applicants can explore funding opportunities and application materials through the VHCB Housing Applications page.

Contact Information:

General Housing Funds Inquiry: housing-funds@vhcb.org | 802-828-5073

Federal Housing Programs Director: 802-828-2912

Website: <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/housing>

2. Opioid Settlement Funds

The Opioid Settlement Funds, which are distributed via sub-grants managed by Recovery Partners of Vermont and the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences. These funds are designated for capital projects that expand recovery housing infrastructure, as part of Vermont's broader strategy to address the opioid crisis. Oversight and strategic planning for these funds are provided by the Opioid

Settlement Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from public health and recovery sectors. Information about the committee's meetings, webinar access, and the application process, including timelines and decision-making procedures, can be found on the Vermont Department of Health's Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee webpage.

The committee has developed a standardized application format to ensure transparency, consistency, and accessibility. Applicants are required to describe their proposed initiative, identify the populations to be served, specify the requested funding amount, and provide additional relevant details. The committee reviews all submissions and selects proposals for further consideration through a majority vote. Final funding recommendations are also made by majority vote based on alignment with public health priorities and community impact.

Contact Information:

VT Dept of Health Commissioner's Office:

General Inquiry: 802-863-7280

VT Dept of Health's Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee:

<https://ago.vermont.gov/ago/attorney-generals-office-divisions-and-unit/consumer-protection/health-and-product-safety/opioid-settlements>

Recovery Partners of Vermont:

General Inquiry: info@recoverypartnersvt.org | 802-738-8998

Website: <https://recoverypartnersvt.org>

3. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

The VCDP administers federal CDBG funds to support projects that benefit low- and moderate-income Vermonters. Implementation Grants (IG), ranging from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000, can fund job creation, housing development, infrastructure, and community services like childcare and senior centers.

Operated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, VCDP assigns a Community Development Specialist to each region to guide applicants

through eligibility and the application process. Prospective applicants should consult the VCDP Program Guide and connect with their regional specialist. More details are available on the VCDP website.

Contact Information:

General Inquiry: 802-828-3211

Website: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/vcdp>

4. Recovery Housing Program (RHP) Funds

The Recovery Housing Program (RHP) is a federally funded initiative administered by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in collaboration with the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, and Vermont's Single State Agency (SSA). The program is designed to support transitional housing for individuals recovering from substance use disorders.

Eligible activities under the Recovery Housing Program (RHP) include a range of capital improvements such as acquisition of property, new construction, leasing, rehabilitation of existing structures, site clearance, and relocation assistance. It's important to note that while these funds support the physical development of recovery housing, they do not cover ongoing operating costs such as staffing, utilities, or maintenance.

Contact Information:

Main Phone: 802-828-3211

Website: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/vcdp/recovery-housing-program>

5. HUD Housing Assistance Programs

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers several programs that support transitional housing initiatives. One of the most relevant is the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, which funds efforts to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Transitional Housing is one of five eligible components under this program, with funding available for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, and operational costs.

To apply, organizations must be eligible applicants—typically nonprofit organizations, state or local governments, or public housing authorities. Applications are submitted through the region’s designated Collaborative Applicant, who coordinates the full CoC application process. Vermont-based applicants should begin by identifying their local HUD grantee contact.

Contact Information:

Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care (VT BoS CoC)

Collaborative Applicant: Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA)

Phone: (802) 828-3295

Email: vsha@vsha.org

Website: <https://www.vsha.org>

Chittenden County Continuum of Care (Burlington/Chittenden CoC)

Collaborative Applicant: City of Burlington – Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO)

Phone: (802) 865-7144

Email: cedohousing@burlingtonvt.gov

Website: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO>

HUD Vermont Field Office (Regional Support)

Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – VT Field Office

Phone: (802) 951-6290

Website: <https://www.hud.gov/states/vermont>

6. Impact Investors and Philanthropy

Impact investors and philanthropic organizations that support recovery initiatives may offer funding to assist with the acquisition of housing.

Operational Funding Sources

Resident Program Fees

Resident program fees typically range from \$100 to \$175 per week per resident. Many recovery residences across the state operate on a 2.5x cost-to-resident fee model, supplementing the difference with grants, donations, and other philanthropic support. This model prioritizes affordability for residents, which is essential for long-term recovery success. However, the appropriate fee structure depends on several factors, including the maturity of the program, historical success with grant writing, and the availability of alternative revenue streams. For newer residences, it is advisable to set fees that align with your operating budget, with the flexibility to adjust as your funding base grows.

Guiding Principles for Setting Fees

- **Affordability & Dignity:** Fees should be set at a level that allows residents to feel self-sufficient and successful, which supports self-esteem and recovery.
- **Employment Considerations:** Most residents will be transitioning from inpatient treatment and may not be employed initially. The goal is to give them time and space to focus on recovery.
- **Transitional Employment:** Residents are likely to begin with low-stress, lower-wage jobs (estimated at \$18–\$20/hour) working approximately 30 hours per week. This allows flexibility for recovery-related responsibilities, including family or legal obligations.

Fee Calculation Guidance

To determine an appropriate monthly fee:

- Estimate the resident's net income based on a 30-hour work week at \$18–\$20/hour.
- Calculate 30% of their post-tax income—this is a reasonable benchmark for fees or program fees.
- Use this figure to set a monthly fee that is both sustainable for the program and manageable for the resident.

- VTARR offers scholarships through a combination of state support and fundraising, designed to assist residents during the critical transition from orientation to stable employment. These scholarships typically cover the equivalent of the first month's entry cost, helping individuals who often enter recovery residences unemployed and without immediate income.

Bridging the Gap

- Vermont Opioid Settlement Fund (through VTARR & RPV) – Funds operating costs for certified recovery residences.

Any home that is VTARR eligible can be included in this program to offer scholarships to residents. In 2024, VTARR received \$325,000 as part of the settlement fund for this program specifically. This is always subject to change depending on legislative action and annual budget approval/appropriations.

- State Appropriations for Recovery Residences – Vermont has state funding allocated for recovery home operations.

Building Communities Grants Program, funded annually through the Capital Appropriations and State Bonding Act. There are seven main programs. Program deadlines for all seven grant programs vary, and applicants may not receive more than one grant through the Building Communities Grants Program in a single fiscal year. It is encouraged that applicants contact specific Grant Administrator's with any questions and to confirm their eligibility before submitting an application.

The Building Community Grants resource includes contact information for all grant administrators.

- Opportunity Zones
 - The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 included the creation of Opportunity Zones, a new tax incentive aimed at increasing private investment in low-income census tracts. Investors in these zones receive preferential tax treatment when they invest in a newly created "Opportunity Fund."

- A Qualified Opportunity Fund (QOF) is an investment vehicle (typically a partnership, LLC, S-corp, or C-corp) that invests at least 90% of its assets in Qualified Opportunity Zone property.
- To register a Qualified Opportunity Fund (QOF) in Vermont, an eligible corporation, LLC, or partnership must annually file IRS Form 8996 with its federal income tax return, certifying its status as a QOF and reporting its compliance with the 90% investment standard.
- In March 2018, Governor Phil Scott designated 25 census tracts in 17 Vermont communities as Opportunity Zones, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development is working with these communities to leverage the Opportunity Zones program. [Vermont Map of Opportunity Zones](#)

- Vermont Community Foundation

A collective of more than 1,000 funds and foundations, created by Vermonters to fulfill their charitable aspirations.

- Nonprofit Capacity Building - Vermont Community Foundation

NPCB program grants to supplement the cost of strategic planning, financial sustainability, revenue stream planning, board and leadership training, and general consultation.

- Federal Grants

Grants.gov is a centralized, federal government website where grant seekers can find and apply for federal funding opportunities, acting as a single portal for interacting with grant-making agencies. It encompasses opportunities from more than 1,000 grant programs across 26 federal agencies. Searching by “substance use” or similar moniker will yield the best results on what is available for funding in the substance use disorder space.

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA funds organizations providing substance use and mental health services, research, technical assistance, and training to advance the behavioral health and to improve the lives of individuals living with mental and substance use disorders, and their families.

Division of grants management available for initial questions: 1-800-518-4726 or 240-276-1400. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) available on the grants dashboard.

The forecast of a grant opportunity alerts applicants to a funding opportunity that is planned but has not yet been posted. Prospective applicants should review this information carefully and use the forecast to begin preparing for the application process. However, it is not guaranteed that a grant program on the forecast will become a NOFO as funding future opportunities depend on the availability of funds.

- State Grants

Vermont Department of Health - The VT Dept of Health offers various grant programs to support health initiatives across the state.

Rural Health Information Hub - The RHlhub is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The RHlhub offers many ways to learn about funding opportunities.

- The Funding and Opportunities section of the Online Library includes federal, state, local, and private funding programs of interest to rural health organizations and rural organizations interested in human services and the social determinants of health. RHlhub staff reviews funding and opportunities that are added to the database, making certain that all of the funders either expressly state they will fund in rural areas, or have been known to fund in rural areas in the past.
- RHlhub can also conduct a free, customized funding search on your behalf, which will identify funders who may be interested in your project or program.

Contact 800-270-1898 or info@ruralhealthinfo.org to request a custom search. Include your ZIP code and the purpose of your project in your request.

- Local Fundraising and Donations
Partner with community foundations and businesses for sponsorships.
- Employer Partnerships
Employers may contribute funding in exchange for a reliable, sober workforce pipeline.
- Local Chamber of Commerce
Connecting with chambers in your respective territory can be a great resource in connecting with local business owners and identifying ways to collaborate. You may also find partners in leadership groups put on by the chamber.

Resources

Housing – Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB): Provides grants for affordable housing initiatives, including recovery residences.

<https://vhcb.org/our-programs/housing>

Housing Applications – VHCB: Central portal to apply for any of VHCB's eligible funding programs. <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/conservation/apply-for-funding>

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Members: Contact information for committee members overseeing opioid settlement fund distribution.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/opioid-settlement-advisory-committee#members>

Opioid Settlement Application Process: Details the timeline and process for applying for opioid settlement funds. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/opioid-settlement-advisory-committee#apply>

Recovery Partners of Vermont (RPV): Coordinates statewide recovery efforts and manages opioid settlement sub-grants for recovery housing.

<https://recoverypartnersvt.org>

Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP): Offers Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for housing and infrastructure projects.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/vcdp>

VCDP Program Guide: Comprehensive guide to eligibility, application process, and program requirements.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/VCDP/CPG-VCDP-Program-Guide.pdf>

Recovery Housing Program (RHP): Federally funded program supporting acquisition and rehabilitation of recovery housing. <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/recovery-housing-program>

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program – HUD Exchange: Federal program supporting transitional and permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>

Grantee Contact Information – HUD Exchange: List of Vermont-based HUD grantees eligible for CoC funding. <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/>

VTARR – Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences: Offers scholarships and operational support for certified recovery residences. <https://www.vtarr.org/>

Building Communities Grants – Common Good Vermont: Capital grants for community facilities, funded through the Capital Appropriations and State Bonding Act.

<https://commongoodvt.org/funding-2/building-communities-grants/>

Grant Opportunities – Common Good Vermont: Central hub for all seven Building Communities Grant programs. <https://commongoodvt.org/grant-opportunities/>

Opportunity Zones – Vermont ACCD: Tax incentive program encouraging private investment in low-income communities. <https://accd.vermont.gov/OpportunityZones>

Vermont Community Foundation: Offers grants through over 1,000 funds and foundations to support community initiatives. <https://vermontcf.org/>

Nonprofit Capacity Building – Vermont Community Foundation: Supports strategic planning, financial sustainability, and leadership training for nonprofits. <https://vermontcf.org/for-nonprofits/funds-and-programs/>

Grants.gov: Centralized portal for federal funding opportunities across all agencies. <https://www.grants.gov/>

SAMHSA Grants – Substance Use and Mental Health Services: Federal grants for behavioral health services, including recovery housing. <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants>

SAMHSA Grants Dashboard: Real-time dashboard of current and forecasted funding opportunities. <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-dashboard>

Vermont Department of Health – Grant Opportunities: Offers grants for health equity, substance use prevention, and recovery services. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/grantees-contractors/requests-proposals-information-and-applications>

Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub): Funding database and custom search service for rural health and human services projects. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding>

Step Eight: Begin Accepting Residents

Partner with Local Treatment Providers

Establishing partnerships with local treatment providers, sobriety coaches, and social services is crucial for receiving referrals. These collaborations ensure a steady flow of potential residents who are committed to recovery. Engaging with organizations like the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) can provide valuable resources and support.

Develop a Screening and Intake Questionnaire

Creating a comprehensive screening and intake questionnaire helps assess the commitment of potential residents to their recovery journey. This questionnaire should cover aspects such as sobriety date, previous rehab attendance, history of violent behavior or criminal convictions, and financial stability. Personal interviews and reference checks are also essential to gauge the applicant's dedication to recovery.

Accept Applicants with Clean Urine Samples

Implementing a policy where applicants must provide a clean urine sample, free of all substances, ensures that residents are serious about maintaining sobriety. In some cases, marijuana use may be accepted on a case-by-case basis, provided the individual can continue to provide clean urine samples for a specified period.

Manage Full Capacity Situations

When the recovery home is at full capacity, maintain contact with applicants who pass the initial screening and have no red flags, such as arson charges or sex offender registration. Regular check-ins can help ensure they are maintaining sobriety until a bed becomes available.

Offer Structured Orientation and Peer Mentorship

Providing structured orientation and peer mentorship for new residents is vital for integrating them into the recovery home community. Peer mentorship, often involving their new roommate, helps teach house expectations and responsibilities, fostering accountability in their sobriety.

Establish an Aftercare Plan

Upon acceptance, develop an aftercare plan that includes resources and services to support the resident's transition into sober independent living. This plan should encompass ongoing therapy, support groups, and strategies for managing triggers and stressors. A well-crafted aftercare plan is essential for sustaining recovery and preventing relapse.

Resources

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR): Provides certification for recovery residences in Vermont to ensure they meet national standards.

<https://www.vtarr.org/certification.php>

Best Practices for Recovery Housing - SAMHSA: Outlines best practices for the implementation and operation of recovery housing.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/resource/ebp/best-practices-recovery-housing>

Considerations when Screening Residents for Your Recovery House: Provides best practices for screening potential residents to ensure a supportive and safe environment.

<https://www.sobrietyhub.com/our-blog/considerations-when-screening-residents-for-your-recovery-house>

The Role of Peer Mentorship in Recovery Programs: Explains how peer mentorship supports individuals in their recovery journey through shared experiences and guidance.

<https://www.aristarecovery.com/blog/the-role-of-peer-mentorship-in-recovery-programs>

Peer Mentorship vs. Case Work in Recovery Homes: Differentiates between peer mentorship and case work, highlighting their distinct roles in recovery homes.

<https://www.vanderburghhouse.com/peer-mentorship-vs-case-work-in-recovery-homes-understanding-the-difference/>

How to Build an Aftercare Plan When Leaving Rehab: Offers strategies for creating an effective aftercare plan to sustain recovery post-rehabilitation.

<https://www.bluecrestrc.com/how-to-build-an-aftercare-plan-when-leaving-rehab/>

The Importance of Aftercare Planning Post-Treatment: Emphasizes the critical role of aftercare planning in maintaining sobriety and preventing relapse.

<https://www.leorabh.com/blog/the-importance-of-aftercare-planning-post-treatment>

How Aftercare Planning Ensures Long-Term Success in Recovery: Discusses how structured aftercare planning supports sustained sobriety and long-term recovery success. <https://findlayrecoverycenter.com/how-aftercare-planning-ensures-long-term-success-in-recovery/>

Step Nine: Maintain Compliance and Community Engagement

Conduct Regular Self-Audits and Maintain VTARR Certification Requirements

Regular Self-Audits

- Regular self-audits help ensure that your recovery home continues to meet the standards set by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR). These audits can identify areas for improvement and ensure ongoing compliance with best practices.
- Develop a checklist based on VTARR standards and conduct periodic reviews. This checklist should cover all aspects of your operations, including safety protocols, resident support, and administrative practices.

VTARR Certification Requirements

- Maintain up-to-date documentation as required by VTARR, such as mission and vision statements, insurance policies, resident handbooks, and grievance procedures.
- Ensure that your recovery home adheres to the NARR Code of Ethics and other VTARR standards, including policies on drug testing, resident rights, and health and safety practices.
- Stay informed about the certification renewal process and deadlines to avoid lapses in certification.

Continue Engaging with Neighbors, Law Enforcement, and Local Officials

Engaging with Neighbors

- Foster open lines of communication with your neighbors. Regularly update them on your recovery home's activities and address any concerns they may have.
- Host community events or open houses to build relationships and educate the

community about the benefits of recovery residences.

Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Establish positive relationships with local law enforcement. This can help ensure a safe environment for residents and foster mutual understanding.
- Offer training sessions for law enforcement on the role and benefits of recovery homes, which can help reduce stigma and improve cooperation.

Involvement with Local Officials

- Engage with local officials to advocate for policies that support recovery residences. This can include attending town meetings and participating in local government initiatives.
- Keep local officials informed about your recovery home's successes and challenges. This transparency can help build trust and support.

Providing Success Stories and Positive Outcomes to Build Public Trust

Sharing Success Stories

- Collect and share testimonials from residents who have successfully transitioned through your recovery home. These personal stories can be powerful tools for building public trust and demonstrating the effectiveness of your program.
- Utilize local media outlets, social media, and your organization's website to share these success stories. Highlighting positive outcomes can help counteract any negative perceptions and showcase the value of your recovery home.

Community Impact

- Publish annual or bi-annual reports that highlight the positive impact your recovery home has had on the community. Include data on resident outcomes, community engagement activities, and any awards or recognitions received.

- Host events that celebrate the achievements of your residents and the contributions of your supporters. These events can help strengthen community ties and showcase the positive impact of your recovery home.

Resources

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR): Provides certification for recovery residences in Vermont to ensure they meet national standards.

<https://www.vtarr.org/certification.php>

VTARR Certification Application and Requirements: Outlines the application process and requirements for recovery residences seeking certification in Vermont.

<https://vtarr.org/news2/files/10-VTARR-CERT-APPLICATION-AND-REQUIREMENTS.pdf>

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Code of Ethics: Establishes ethical guidelines for recovery residence operators, staff, and volunteers to ensure a safe and supportive environment. [https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NARR-](https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NARR-Code-of-Ethics.pdf)

[Code-of-Ethics.pdf](https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NARR-Code-of-Ethics.pdf)

Contributors

This blueprint was developed through the collaborative efforts of the following individuals and organizations, whose dedication to recovery and community well-being made this project possible:

Leadership Champlain Class of 2024–2025 Cohort Members

This blueprint was developed by a six-member team as part of a project for Leadership Champlain, a professional development and civic engagement program.

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Final Thoughts

The Vermont Recovery Home Blueprint is more than a guide; it's a resource roadmap designed to support those committed to making a difference. The steps and tools outlined throughout this document, along with the resources provided, can play an important role in helping individuals and organizations establish safe, supportive, and sustainable recovery housing in Vermont.

Recovery homes are not just places to live, they are places to heal, grow, and rebuild. If you are reading this with the intention of opening a recovery home, we thank you. Your commitment is a powerful act of service and hope. This blueprint is our way of supporting your journey and honoring the impact you are poised to make.