

Vermont Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
Strategic Program Review
Ongoing Programs Funded Through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

Organization Information

Organization: **Multiple**

Program: Recovery Housing

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SECTION I

1. Program Implementation

Has the program been implemented substantially as proposed when funding was approved?

☐ Yes **XXX**

☐ Partially

☐ No

If "Partially" or "No," please describe the significant changes made and the reason(s) for those changes.

2. Program Accomplishments

Please describe the most significant outcomes, accomplishments, or milestones that best demonstrate the progress and impact of this program.

- The combination of OSAF and General Fund Investments since FY23 have increased VDH funded capacity by approximately 50%
- The geographic distribution of recovery residences has expanded to additional towns and cities across that State, improving access to programming.

3.Evidence of Effectiveness

Please describe the information, data, evaluation findings, participant experiences, or other evidence that demonstrates the program is achieving meaningful benefit for the population served.

Existing reports or evaluations may be referenced rather than reproduced.

A 2025 systematic review of recovery housing research, conducted by the Recovery Research Institute, Center for Addiction Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, United States and the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, United States, found that residents generally experienced improvements in abstinence, employment, and income compared with people receiving usual continuing care or no intervention.

Recovery housing:

- Can bridge the gap between treatment and independent living
- It supports long-term recovery and reduces the risk of relapse
- It builds community, connection, and peer support
- It addresses social determinants of health
- Helps connect individuals to ongoing services, including outpatient treatment, medications for substance use disorders, mental health counseling, recovery coaching, and mutual-support groups.
- It promotes personal responsibility, self-efficacy, and independence

Recently published Vermont reports:

[Assessment of Recovery Residences 2025 Report to the Legislature](#)

[Certified Recovery Residence Exit and Transfer Data Report to the Legislature](#)

Section II

Long – Term Sustainability

4. Essential Services

Please identify the core services or program components that your organization believes are essential to continue beyond the life of the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

VDH is seeking to maintain the current inventory of recovery residences and expand to 400 beds statewide. This funding source is unique because it supports all costs associated with recovery housing, including home procurement and construction/renovation.

5. Sustainability Planning

Please describe your organization's approach to sustaining the essential services identified above. In your response, discuss anticipated future expenses and available resources apart from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund that may support the continuation of those services.

The Health Department has supported a small capacity of transitional and recovery housing for 15+ years with the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Federal Block Grant. Vermont's investments beginning in FY23 of both General Fund and OSAF, provided a significant expansion of recovery housing capacity. FY27 adds a significant 5-year investment through the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Grant. (\$8M in Year 1). In addition to government provided funding, the recovery housing model includes dues paid by individuals to reside in the residence.

Sustainability and growth cannot be discussed without looking at the entire portfolio of investments in recovery housing. RHT housing cannot expand programming without that support of OSAF funding due to funding use restrictions. OSAF funding is needed for the start-up (home procurement/significant renovations) for any new residences and significant renovations to existing residences.

For the next five years it is our hope that RHT can support the operating of a significant portion of the recovery housing inventory. We will need every investment we can find at the end of RHT just to maintain a portion of the inventory.

6. Future Program Viability

If Opioid Abatement Special Fund support were no longer available within the next three to five years:

- Which services would likely continue?
- Which services would likely be reduced or discontinued?
- Please explain why.

Continue: After five years, programming and staffing supported by the SUPTRS Block Grant (Federal Funds) and General fund would continue. This is a small portion of the VDH funded recovery housing beds.

Reduced/Discontinued: Five years from now, with the ending of the Rural Health Transformation grant and potential loss of OSAF funding, there would be a 75% reduction in VDH funded recovery housing beds due to a loss of approximately \$10 Million in annual funding for recovery housing programming

7. Community Impact

Please describe the anticipated impact on the individuals, families, and communities served if the services supported through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund were no longer available.

Where applicable, discuss anticipated service gaps, barriers to care, or other community impacts.

The impact of losing the OSAF funding, in addition to the RHT funding, is significant. Combined losses would reduce the housing capacity by 75%. Losing OSAF specifically eliminates the ability to support all costs associated with opening and maintaining the physical recovery residences (outright building purchase, construction/renovation, etc.).

Recovery housing is a critical component of the substance use continuum of care because it provides a safe, stable, and substance-free living environment where individuals can sustain recovery, build independence, and successfully transition from treatment back into the community. Treatment does not end when someone completes detoxification, residential treatment, or an intensive outpatient program. Recovery is an ongoing process that requires continued support, structure, and opportunities to develop the skills necessary for long-term wellness.

Section III

Looking Ahead

8. Future Considerations

Looking ahead over the next three to five years, what should the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee understand about the future needs, opportunities, or challenges affecting this program as it develops recommendations to the General Assembly?

Recovery housing:

- 1) Can bridge the gap between treatment and independent living
- 2) It supports long-term recovery and reduces the risk of relapse
- 3) It builds community, connection, and peer support

- 4) It addresses social determinants of health
- 5) Recovery housing helps connect individuals to ongoing services, including outpatient treatment, medications for substance use disorders, mental health counseling, recovery coaching, and mutual-support groups.
- 6) It promotes personal responsibility, self-efficacy, and independence

[DSU Community Needs Assessment Report](#)