



Promoting wellness and recovery

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State Awards Up to \$10 Million to Strengthen Housing Options for Ohioans Recovering from Addiction

COLUMBUS –The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced \$10 million in funding to strengthen and expand housing options for Ohioans seeking a fresh start in recovery from addiction. The funding, comprised of \$5 million in operating funds set aside in the Mid-Biennium Review, House Bill 483, and another \$5 million appropriated in the State Fiscal Year 2015-16 Capital Budget Bill, will expand Ohio’s recovery housing capacity by nearly 660 beds. These funds are a result of working with members of the legislature to prioritize funding for recovery housing in response to a need clearly identified in communities.

“Addiction is a chronic disease, not an acute health problem that is cured by a single dose of treatment. Recovery housing supports long-term recovery success and helps individuals working to overcome addiction live productive lives,” said OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck. “The opiate crisis has effectively changed the face of addiction in many communities, and making these timely investments undoubtedly will improve access to treatment, recovery and stability,” added Plouck, noting that priority was given to communities that previously lacked recovery housing resources.

Recovery housing is characterized as a safe and healthy living environment that promotes abstinence from alcohol and other drugs and enhances participation and retention in traditional clinical treatment. Residents benefit from peer support and accountability, and gain valuable relapse prevention, case management and employment skills training as they transition to living independently and productively in the community.

Recovery housing programs are typically classified by one of four broad categories -- or “levels” -- as defined by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). These include: fully peer-run homes (Level I), monitored peer-run residences with a dedicated house manager (Level II), supervised residences with paid staff (Level III), and service provider residences with 24/7 staff (Level 4). Many programs are engineered to meet specific needs or populations such as language, gender, women with children, age, co-occurring disorders, medication status and prison re-entry.

Longitudinal studies of peer-run recovery homes have demonstrated that after 24 months, when compared to individuals who returned directly to their communities of origin after treatment, peer-run housing residents had significantly better outcomes. Chief among those outcomes are decreased substance use, decreased rates of incarceration, higher rates of employment and increased income.

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Recovery Housing, Page 2

“Stable housing is the foundation upon which people rebuild their lives—absent a safe, decent, affordable place to live, it is next to impossible to achieve good health, positive education outcomes, or reach one’s economic potential,” Plouck said. “Moreover, recovery housing helps to reduce the flow of people into our jails and prisons, effectively curbing criminal justice spending while improving public safety.”

In 2013, OhioMHAS tapped the expertise of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (Ohio Council) and the Center for Social Innovation to commission a statewide environmental scan of recovery housing resources. The resulting *Recovery Housing in the State of Ohio: Findings and Recommendations from an Environmental Scan* report provided an in-depth look at the current state of recovery housing across communities in Ohio as they endeavor to support people in their lifelong recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Among other findings, the report cited a need to enhance and expand recovery housing, especially in light of the opiate epidemic.

“The scan identified effective models and key elements of recovery housing and the technical expertise, cultural competence, community capacity, infrastructure, and financial capital necessary to develop and operate additional recovery housing,” said Plouck. “The report also explored the legal and regulatory considerations for creating policies that align with the goals of recovery housing and recommended next steps for meeting the need for recovery housing in the State of Ohio. I am pleased that working with the legislature, we are able to make investments today are an outgrowth of that important work.”

A statewide map of funding awards follows.

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Note to Editors:

Download an electronic copy of *Recovery Housing in the State of Ohio: Findings and Recommendations from an Environmental Scan* at:

<https://obc.memberclicks.net/assets/OHRecoveryHousing/ohiorecoveryhousingjune2013%20final.pdf>

Learn more about Ohio’s recovery housing efforts: <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=753>

