



Recovery Housing FAQs

Q: What is a Recovery Residence?

"Recovery housing" means housing for individuals recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction that provides an alcohol and drug-free living environment, peer support, assistance with obtaining alcohol and drug addiction services, and other alcoholism and drug addiction recovery assistance.

Q: Who is a Recovery Residence appropriate for?

Persons who are:

- Actively working to daily live alcohol and drug free lives.
- Desire a safe and structured living environment with others who share recovery social norms including the goal of sobriety.
- Want to engage in support, services or treatment to further their recovery.
- Are at-risk of homelessness because they are exiting treatment, incarceration, military duty or are living in a home or neighborhood that puts them at risk for continued substance use.

Q: What services are available in a Recovery Residence?

Recovery residences are divided into four levels, which are based on the type as well as the intensity and duration of support that they offer. Services available range from peer support to employment and counseling services.

Q: Is participation in services required?

A person's recovery should be person-centered, which includes participation in services. In a recovery residence there may be expectations that residents attend meetings, complete household chores and/or abide by additional activities of daily living as a part of the recovery process. These expectations should be clearly spelled out in policies and procedures and made clear to applicants prior to entrance to the recovery residence.

Q: Are Recovery Residences in Ohio required to be certified or licensed?

Levels 1-3 are not required to be certified or licensed. Level 4, which offers the highest intensity of services and supports, is licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) as a Residential Facility.

Q: Do tenant/landlord laws and Fair Housing laws apply to Recovery Residences?

Yes. Recovery Housing Owners/Operators are required to comply with all Federal, State and Local Fair Housing Laws as well as the Ohio Tenant/Landlords Laws.

Q: Do Recovery Residences focus only on AA and NA?

Recovery residences support multiple pathways to recovery, which can include AA and NA. Operators should be clear about expectations prior to accepting an individual in housing, but should seek to support an individual's choices and path in recovery. Individuals who are seeking recovery housing should determine what recovery activities are required before agreeing to engage.

Q: How long can an individual stay at a Recovery Residence?

Length of stay varies depending on an individual's needs, progress, financial means and willingness to abide by residence guidelines.

Q: Are medications (especially medication-assisted treatment) allowed?

Medications, including medication-assisted treatment, are allowed in recovery residences however policies regarding this issue are diverse especially when considering different levels of both services and staffing. Some recovery residences do not accept applicants who are taking medication-assisted treatment, however considerations must be taken into account such as multiple pathways to recovery and reasonable accommodation. Generally, a home should state in their acceptance policy and medication policies clearly to maintain a safe living environment and support recovery of everyone in the home including residents taking medication.

Q: What if a resident relapses?

A relapse must be met with immediate action. Recovery residences must have a policy and procedure for relapse as well as an eviction policy that is consistent with Ohio Tenant-/Landlord laws.