

NHCORR

NH COALITION OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to address the following directives set forth by SAMHSA for the State Opioid Response Grants, which include the following directive.

In addition to these treatment services, grantees will be required to employ effective prevention and recovery support services to ensure that individuals are receiving a comprehensive array of services across the spectrum of prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Implement community recovery support services such as peer supports, recovery coaches, and recovery housing. Grantees must ensure that recovery housing supported under this grant is in an appropriate and legitimate facility. Individuals in recovery should have a meaningful role in developing the service array used in your program.

This language from SAMHSA is unprecedented, as are directives to states to directly support recovery housing. The State of NH in support of recovery housing would benefit from having a certifying body for recovery housing. The NH Coalition for Recovery Residences (NHCORR) the NH affiliate for the National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) would like to partner in supporting the State of New Hampshire in their efforts to address the opioid epidemic through the 2018 SAMHSA State Opioid Response Grant. NH Coalition of Recovery Residences is a voluntary coalition of those who offer recovery housing in NH. We have adopted voluntary standards for the operation of recovery houses that will provide safe and high quality housing for persons in recovery.

A significant goal of the coalition is to help assure that people in recovery have supportive housing. All houses must be managed in an ethical and honest fashion. A NHCORR recovery home provides a safe, supportive, affordable, drug and alcohol free residential home environment for individuals in recovery from substance use. Houses foster a sense of family and community while providing security and stability for the resident. A NHCORR recovery home encourages the transition to independent living by providing an environment conducive to peer- to- peer support. As the NARR affiliate we also have the training, support and guidance of years of experience that most of the country has adopted as the standard for certifying recovery homes.

NHCORR is requesting The State of New Hampshire to support our efforts in bringing the standard of recovery homes across the state to a higher level of accountability for excellence in recovery housing. We are also requesting that funds be set aside for scholarships for residents to access quality certified recovery housing. Funds requested - Scholarships \$125,00 Total for Direct Cost, Operating Costs, and Overhead- \$247,830 to hire (1) full-time Administrator (1) full-time Certification Coordinator (1) full time Training and Education Coordinator for 12 months to provide support to New Hampshire with

developing and implementing a certification and scholarship program with NHCORR in partnership with The State of New Hampshire.

PURPOSE

The purpose of having NHCORR certify recovery homes in New Hampshire would be to ensure that people in recovery seeking recovery housing are offered an opportunity to access safe, supportive housing. Houses are certified on a voluntary basis there is an application process for certification by NHCORR. A trained NHCORR certifier will go out to the home for a site visit. The certifier follows the standards set by the National Association of Recovery Residences to certify each home. The home if passes the certification will then be listed on our website as a certified recovery home. This would also make this home eligible for residents that may apply for scholarship funds that this grant would make possible.

GOAL

NHCORR would offer The State of New Hampshire a network of Recovery Housing that keep the client a top priority. NHCORR will monitor standards and evolve as needed. With the intention of elevating the quality of recovery housing available to people in recovery. A NHCORR elected Ombudsman will review complaints and investigate. This will also relieve The State of this task.

Certified Houses would also be eligible to accept residents that have applied for scholarships made possible by this grant. These houses would also be eligible for referrals from state funded facilities.

TARGET POPULATION

Adult men and women in recovery with a reported history of opioid use disorder seeking safe, supportive recovery housing. That meet the requirements for being a resident in a certified recovery house.

NH Coalition of Recovery Residences and The National Association of Recovery Residences will work collaboratively with The State of NH, DHHS and other community organizations to align our goals and provide this valuable service that will reduce unmet treatment needs and reduce overdose deaths through prevention, treatment and recovery activities.

Attached to this letter please see our requested proposal per the DHHS website.

Kind Regards,

Kristine Paquette

NHCORR Co-Chair

Proposal for funding and development of NHCORR- Recovery Housing Certification- Scholarship Fund

Funding Period: 24 months

Abstract- The National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) has been the leading source in certifying recovery homes throughout the country since 2011. Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2018, H.R.4684 cites NARR as one of the prominent stakeholders to be included in carrying out the provisions of the bill.

Following NARR standards and utilizing their training and expertise NHCORR will offer The State of New Hampshire, DHHS and other community organizations, a team of leaders in the housing field, that have developed a voluntary certification process for recovery housing owners that will ensure ethical quality standards for all certified houses. Our priority is access to quality safe supported sober housing for men and women in recovery from opioid use disorder, so that he or she may flourish in their recovery. To that end, NHCORR is also focused on improving its members' knowledge of recovery and establishing good practices to benefit both the client and the operator. NHCORR strives to improve the public perception of recovery housing by offering excellent, well maintained housing as well as offering outreach and education to New Hampshire communities.

NHCORR will also offer the ability for clients to apply for scholarships to any of our certified recovery homes listed on our website. This scholarship fund will afford so many men and women a chance to grow in their recovery, reduce relapse and decrease overdose deaths by allowing these men and women a chance to find their path to recovery. This critical need will be fulfilled by this scholarship fund.

Organizational Background: NHCORR was organized in November 2017 under the umbrella organization Homestead Recovery Group a nonprofit 501 (c)(3). The Coalition was formed to create a certifying body for recovery homes in New Hampshire. This was a need that was on agendas everywhere due to the stories of abuse, fraud and negligence happening throughout the recovery housing world. A group of responsible housing providers and recovery supports got together and created NHCORR, working hand in hand with The National Association of Recovery Residences. We wanted to have one place that clients, families and professionals could find safe supported and affordable recovery housing. Recovery housing should be held to a standard that provides the best environment for men and women in recovery. An environment conducive to learning, growing and regaining the strength to maintain their recovery once they have moved on to independent living.

NHCORR will offer training to all of its members to assist with compliance to NARR standards these trainings will be held by a NARR trainer 4 times a year for the first two years as NHCORR creates its own training program to be a self sufficient entity.

All NHCORR certified homes will go through an application process-

Process- Application is received and reviewed by the membership committee.

A member of the committee will contact the application after they have submitted all required documentation and it has been approved to schedule the initial walk through

Initial Walk Through-

Two members of NHCORR will walk through the property.

If the property meets NARR standards the application moves into provisional status.

Provisional Membership begins upon completion of NHCORR application and walk through approved by NHCORR. If there are any repairs, the property will not be approved for provisional membership until repairs are made.

A walk through of each recovery house run by a NHCORR member will be performed once yearly upon application.

A house must be completely furnished and at least 50% occupied before a walk through will be scheduled. Beds must be physically in place even if not occupied.

Properties must be finished furnished, have operational locks on exterior doors and first floor windows, have house rules posted, have fully functional kitchen, bathrooms, utilities ,central heat, reasonable living space, have working smoke detectors, CO₂ detectors and fire extinguishers, complete and clean furniture and the exterior appearance of each property must be neat and clean.

Any floors with bedrooms (including basement) must have two means of egress.

NHCORR members will record number of bedrooms, bathrooms ,beds how many beds per bedroom and any areas in need of repair.

The provisional membership is for a period of six months during that six month period the applicant is expected to attend or send a designee to attend each monthly general meeting. At the end of the six month period the entire coalition will vote on making the property a full member. Provisional members do not have voting rights.

As a member of the coalition, a house is subject to walk-through at any time with one weeks notice unless there is an imminent threat to the health ,safety or welfare of residents.

OMBUDSMAN- The ombudsman shall receive all initial complaints independent of NHCORR. The Ombudsman or designee shall be the primary investigator of complaints. The Ombudsman shall, as much as possible, have no direct connection with, or any interest in, any NHCORR housing program or personnel. All complaints from residents living in NHCORR residences shall be directed to the Ombudsman. The Executive Committee shall be notified only when the Ombudsman considers the complaint in need of review. If necessary an investigation will take place following NHCORR policies. Appropriate actions are: warning, probation, suspension, and termination from NHCORR. As necessary NHCORR will notify The Department of Health and Human Services.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS- Scholarship Funds will be maintained through the NHCORR Administrator or designee. Men and Women having completed a SUD/OD treatment program would be eligible to apply for initial funds to enter a NHCORR certified Recovery Residence. Each applicant if approved would be eligible for payment for the first full week up to \$300.00 The second week 75% of the weekly rent up to \$225.00 The third week if applied for 50% of weekly rent up to \$150.00. The fourth week may be applied for, but applicant will need to show that he/she has obtained a job or an explanation that can

be verified of why he/she has not been able to obtain employment. This final week would be 25% of rent up to \$75.00. NHCORR has asked as part of this proposal for \$125,000.00 per year for two years. The critical need for funding this scholarship is palpable in this state Giving a person in early recovery the chance to have a safe stable environment to recover, is proven to benefit a person's recovery. NHCORR members are invested in continuing this scholarship program beyond the two years we are asking for: Creating a public awareness campaign, decreasing stigma, educating the public and raising awareness for SUD/OD. Creating an environment for fund raising efforts.

Aligning our efforts with other community organizations and the State of New Hampshire to achieve the strategic initiative laid out by SAMHSA.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION-

NH Coalition of Recovery Residences Proposed Program Goals and Objectives:

NHCORR will establish a certifying body for The State of New Hampshire's Recovery Housing community. This will be a voluntary membership creating the benefit to New Hampshire of having a network of safe supportive recovery housing for men and women in recovery from SUD/OD coming out of treatment. Decreasing overdose deaths. Decreasing relapse. Educating and training operators in best practice. Creating community awareness, decreasing stigma and public education.

To implement this mission successfully in the State of New Hampshire NHCORR will attain the following goals and objectives_

Goal 1.0- Propagation of NH Coalition of Recovery Residences in New Hampshire over a 12 month period.

Objective 1.1- By the end of the 12 month period all NHCORR members will have completed one of the four trainings offered with NARR trainers.

Objective 1.2- By the end of the 12 month period 50% of all members will have completed the application and certification process successfully. At 24 months all members that completed and passed the application and certification process will be done within the six week allotted time period.

Objective 1.3- NHCORR will have all certified houses listed and an application process available on the website.

Objective 1.4- NHCORR will hold quarterly open information sessions to increase community/public knowledge and awareness as part of our public information campaign.

Goal 2.0- Maintain a High Quality Network of Recovery Houses/Operators

Objective 1.1- NHCORR will continue to stay informed on issues concerning housing across the country and evaluate need for change to the standards of practice/certification process.

Objective 1.2- NHCORR will hold monthly meetings for all members. Members are required to attend a monthly meeting or assign a designee to attend. This allows for updates on trends/concerns for operators or residents. Offer education and support for all members.

Objective 1.3- NHCORR will continue to increase membership by creating public awareness of certified homes and the standards they are held to. Creating awareness among operators of the benefits of becoming a NHCORR member such as referrals from State funded treatment centers and scholarships for potential residents. Ongoing training, education and support.

Goal 3.0- NHCORR will establish an application process and payment policy, for men and women applying for residency at a NHCORR certified house.

Objective 1.1- NHCORR will maintain a system for all scholarship applications. All applications will be reviewed in a timely manner after acceptance into the recovery house of their choice.

Objective 1.2- NHCORR Administrator or designee will keep documentation of all funds approved and maintain records of the homes the funds were allotted to. NHCORR will provide yearly reports of all scholarship funds allotted and which homes they funded.

DELIVERABLES AND REPORTS

As documentation for services rendered, the Contractor is requested to submit:

1. A program narrative report Goal (1,2,3) for each six month program period. Documenting achievements of program outcomes and barriers, to include quantitative data on number of individuals served.
2. New Hampshire State Housing Report
3. New Hampshire Project Status Report
4. Six month reporting-Narrative report due 10 days after the end of the calendar year.
5. Annual Reporting- Narrative report due 10 days after the end of the fiscal year