

About

# RECOVERY HOUSING



TEXAS COALITION FOR  
HEALTHY MINDS

## WHAT IS RECOVERY HOUSING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Recovery houses are safe, healthy, family-like, substance-free living environments that support individuals in recovery from addiction. While recovery residences vary widely in structure, all are centered on peer support and a connection to services that promote long-term recovery. Recovery housing benefits individuals in recovery by reinforcing a substance-free lifestyle and providing direct connections to other peers in recovery, mutual support groups and recovery support services. Recovery housing can also provide a safe space for residents to relearn how to live without using substances as they establish employment, obtain education, address medical issues, and build supportive social relationships which can include family reunification.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO TEXANS?

Texas, along with the rest of our nation, is in the midst of the worst addiction and overdose death epidemic we have ever seen. Recovering housing is an essential component for many seeking recovery yet it is almost non-existent in the state's vast rural areas, in border communities, and for special populations, especially women with children.

Well operated recovery housing is a proven and cost-effective means of promoting recovery from substance use issues. "Bad players" are increasingly targeting Texas as incentivized recovery housing accreditation legislation is passed in other states, like Arizona and Florida. Fraudulent business practices, patient brokering, kickbacks, and misleading marketing that lead to unethical referrals, financial exploitation, and inadequate support are becoming normalized in Texas.

Without **the proper resources or guidance**, housing and treatment providers may operate without knowledge of scope of service, codes of ethics, or best practices.



This has resulted in **negligence, relapse, injury, or death** of residents.



The need to implement nationally recognized standards is not only essential for protecting individuals, but also for **preventing bad actors from exploiting the current system** in our state.

# OUR SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) accreditation standards are currently being implemented in over 35 states, including states like Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma. To create a better system that protects individuals, Texas should:



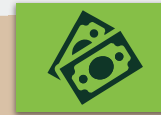
**Define recovery housing in statute** - Exclude other housing models or facilities such as boarding homes, nursing and continuing care facilities, assisted living, IDD group homes, family shelters, child care facilities, and hotels.



**Update and strengthen** existing Texas patient solicitation and ethical marketing practice statutes, and **create a mechanism** to report grievances and violations and support individuals who report.



**Promote adherence** to and **incentivize** the use of nationally recognized standards - NARR accreditation standards are recommended and recognized nationally by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, The SUPPORT Act, National Council for Mental Wellbeing, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, State Model Drug Laws, and the U.S. Attorney General's Report: Facing Addiction in America.



**Provide funding** for initial accreditation to expand recovery housing that meets national standards with priority given to rural areas and providers who serve special populations.

## REFERENCES

National Council on Behavioral Health Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing | 2018

Office of the Surgeon General Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health | 2016

Texas Health and Human Services Housing Choice Plan | 2022

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