

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RECOVERY HOUSING PROGRAM  
ACTION PLAN  
DRAFT**



**State of New Jersey  
Phil Murphy, Governor**

**Department of Community Affairs  
Lt Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner**

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## Background

The Recovery Housing Program (RHP) provides stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD). The RHP was authorized under Section 8071 of the Support for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act. To date, the State of New Jersey has received two allocations: \$855,000 and \$1,006,258. The State will use the allowed 5% (\$93,063) for administration and the balance \$1,768,195 for programmatic activities.

<b>FY 2020 Allocation</b>	\$855,000	<b>FY 2021 Allocation</b>	\$1,006,258
<b>Administrative</b>	42,750	<b>Administrative</b>	\$50,313
<b>Programmatic</b>	\$812,250	<b>Programmatic</b>	\$955,945

This plan identifies the need for transitional housing for persons recovering from addiction and establishes goals for meeting these needs.

## Administration

The NJ Department of Community Affairs will be the responsible agency for the overall administration of this program and will use existing staff to administer the program. The funds will be allocated through a Request for Proposals through the department's System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE).

The NJ Department of Human Services will assist in reviewing applications submitted and making awards.

## Needs

Recovery houses are necessary to provide individuals recovering from substance use disorders with a safe and supportive place to recover and work towards transitioning back to independent living. Research demonstrates that stable housing is a cornerstone to addiction recovery and that people suffering from chronic diseases such as addiction achieve better outcomes when housing accompanied with supportive in-home and community services is provided early on as a basic need.

The rates of drug abuse and addiction have been steadily climbing in New Jersey. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, rates of opioid addiction throughout New Jersey are especially high. In 2018 alone, roughly 90 percent of all reported drug-related overdose deaths in the state were directly linked to opioid narcotics – namely prescription painkillers and heroin. This equated to 2,583 of 2,900 total fatalities.

The below data shows that there has been an exceptional rise in substance abuse deaths in New Jersey. Drug induced deaths have grown at twice the national rate since 2007. In addition, the number of substance abuse induced deaths has more than doubled since 2011.

Drug Induced Deaths		
Year	New Jersey	United States
2007	797	38,371
2017	2,752	73,990
<b>2007-17 % Growth</b>	<b>245.3%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>

Source: NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data

New Jersey Substance Abuse Induced Deaths			
Year	Alcohol Induced Deaths	Drug Induced Deaths	Substance Abuse Induced Deaths
2011	584	1,042	1,626
2013	551	1,331	1,882
2015	527	1,507	2,034
2017	647	2,752	3,399
2019	699	2,876	3,575
<b>growth since 2011</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>176.0%</b>	<b>119.9%</b>

Source: NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data

The following chart shows that Heroin and alcohol addictions were the primary drugs associated with resident admissions.

### Substance Abuse Admissions by County and Primary Drug 2019 NJ Resident Admissions

County of Residence	Primary Drug														Total	
	Alcohol		Cocaine/ Crack		Heroin		Other Opiates		Marijuana/ Hashish		Other Drugs		Unknown		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Atlantic	1791	6	335	6	4122	10	453	8	567	5	291	7	8	6	7567	8
Bergen	1443	5	223	4	1411	3	247	4	519	5	157	4	20	14	4020	4
Burlington	1434	5	286	5	1872	5	345	6	415	4	254	6	11	8	4617	5
Camden	2197	8	615	12	3975	10	679	12	962	9	479	12	6	4	8913	9
Cape May	1067	4	130	2	1055	3	184	3	244	2	157	4	1	1	2838	3
Cumberland	778	3	161	3	1316	3	154	3	317	3	105	3	2	1	2833	3
Essex	2075	7	473	9	3825	9	455	8	1282	12	265	7	8	6	8383	9
Gloucester	1350	5	272	5	2151	5	370	7	287	3	255	6	4	3	4689	5
Hudson	1134	4	274	5	1872	5	156	3	1158	11	278	7	2	1	4874	5
Hunterdon	411	1	47	1	376	1	55	1	89	1	54	1	2	1	1034	1
Mercer	1326	5	327	6	1686	4	271	5	544	5	103	3	8	6	4265	4
Middlesex	2157	7	327	6	2899	7	303	6	746	7	219	6	5	4	6656	7
Monmouth	2663	9	344	7	3034	7	403	7	538	5	254	6	17	12	7253	8
Morris	1195	4	160	3	1203	3	140	3	235	2	145	4	4	3	3082	3
Ocean	2754	9	385	7	3679	9	537	10	703	7	314	8	24	17	8396	9
Passaic	1778	6	383	7	2621	6	237	4	854	8	254	6	6	4	6133	6
Salem	213	1	71	1	365	1	62	1	92	1	58	1			861	1
Somerset	1028	4	108	2	725	2	117	2	232	2	63	2	4	3	2277	2
Sussex	547	2	62	1	676	2	66	1	154	1	43	1	3	2	1551	2
Union	1348	5	219	4	1508	4	207	4	476	5	129	3	4	3	3891	4
Warren	428	1	55	1	522	1	63	1	120	1	64	2	2	1	1254	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29117</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5257</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40893</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5504</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10534</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3941</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95387</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: 2019 NJ Department of Human Services Substance Abuse Overview Statewide

## Program Definitions

**Individual in Recovery:** a person that is in the process of change to improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

**Recovery House:** a 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. Substance-free does not prohibit prescribed medications taken as directed by a licensed prescriber, such as pharmacotherapies specifically approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of opioid use disorder as well as other medications with FDA-approved indications for the treatment of co-occurring disorders.

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

**Substance Use Disorder:** the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causing clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

## Program Summary

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will work in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Addiction Services to utilize the federal Recovery Housing Program funds to expand the number of transitional housing units designated for homeless adults or adults who are at-risk of homelessness who have substance use disorders. The funds totaling \$1,768,195 will be used create at least three (3) new recovery houses; each of which will serve a minimum of 5 individuals. The residence will provide transitional housing for the residents for 18 to 24 months.

The sober living units must be located in one of the following five counties that have the highest substance abuse admissions rate: Atlantic County, Camden County, Essex County, Monmouth County and Ocean County.

Top Five Counties	
County	Number of Admissions
1 Camden	8,913
2 Ocean	8,396
3 Essex	8,383
4 Atlantic	7,567
5 Monmouth	7,253

Source: 2019 NJ Department of Human Services Substance Abuse Overview Statewide

The sober living housing created must provide substance use specific services, peer support, and have physical design features to support individuals on a particular path to recovery from addiction. These homes must be free from alcohol, illicit drugs and non-prescribed medications. In addition, each approved residence must have separate housing areas that are designated for both male and female to ensure they are housed separately.

Each grantee will be required to provide matching funds to cover the necessary support services and staff with experience in working with individuals who have a substance use disorder.

## Method of Distribution

The Department of Community Affairs will publish a competitive Request for Proposals on its System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). Successful applicants will use these funds to acquire and if needed minimally rehabilitate a sober recovery residence. The housing created must be licensed as a Class F, Cooperative Sober Living Residence (NJAC § 5:27). Accordingly, individuals will be responsible for providing their own food and taking care of their own laundry. Treatment and counseling may not be provided in the residence; however, non-clinical recovery support services may be provided at the site and the agency may require, at its discretion, drug or alcohol testing of residents. (NJAC § 5:27-2.1).

Each sober recovery residence must provide peer-based support, maintain in-house staff to assist residents and provide linkages to professional clinical and medical services in the community.

## Eligible Activities

- Acquisition of Real Property. RHP funds may be used for acquisition under 24 CFR 570.201(a) or section 105(a)(1) of the HCD Act (42 USC 5305(a)(1)) for the purpose of providing stable, temporary housing to persons in recovery from a substance use disorder.
- Minor Rehabilitation of Single-Unit Residential. RHP funds may be used for rehabilitation or reconstruction of publicly- or privately-owned single-unit residential buildings and improvements eligible under 24 CFR 570.202(a)(1) or section 105(a)(4) of the HCD Act (42 USC 5305(a)(4)) for the purpose of providing stable, temporary housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder in accordance with Section 8071 and this notice.
- Minor Rehabilitation of Multi-Unit Residential. RHP funds may be used for rehabilitation or reconstruction of publicly- or privately-owned buildings and improvements with two or more permanent residential units that otherwise comply with 24 CFR 570.202(a) and section 105(a)(4) of the HCD Act (42 USC 5305(a)(4)) for the purpose of providing stable, temporary housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder in accordance with Section 8071 and this notice.

## Eligible Entities

Government entities and nonprofit organizations

## Maximum Award

\$600,000

## Application Process

All applicants will be required to submit in SAGE a written narrative that describes the following:

- Applicant's experience with individuals with substance use disorders and providing sober living services
- Project Type
- Assessment of Need(s)
- Number of Beds
- Link to Existing Services
- Operational Staff
- Timeline
- Proposed project budget (including other funding sources that are dedicated to the project)

## Projected Outcomes

- Number of new recovery houses created: 3
- Minimum number of bedrooms: 5 per recovery house
- Minimum number of individuals assisted per year: 15