

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RECOVERY HOUSING PROGRAM
DRAFT 2023 ACTION PLAN**



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

**Department of Community Affairs
Jacquelyn A. Suárez, Acting Commissioner**

2023 Recovery Housing Program Action Plan

Program Summary:

The Recovery Housing Program (RHP) authorizes funds to provide stable, temporary housing to individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder. RHP aims to support individuals in recovery on a path to self-sufficiency and independent living. Data shows that without stable housing, the risk of relapse and inability to maintain abstinence is greatly increased. 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.

The RHP was authorized under Section 8071 of the Support for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act. In federal fiscal year 2023, the State of New Jersey received \$1,072,304. The State will use the allowed 5% (\$53,615.20) for administration and the balance \$1,018,688.80 for programmatic activities.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) 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 \$1,018,688.80 will be used to create at least two (2) 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 in one of the following 10 counties that have the highest substance abuse admissions rate: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Passaic counties.

Substance Abuse Admissions by County	
County	Percentage
Essex	10
Camden	9
Atlantic	8
Ocean	8
Middlesex	7
Monmouth	7
Burlington	5
Gloucester	5
Hudson	5
Passaic	5
Bergen	4
Mercer	4
Union	4
Cape May	3
Cumberland	3
Morris	3
Somerset	2
Hunterdon	1
Salem	1
Sussex	1
Warren	1

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.

This project will be administered through one or more subrecipients who will be required to provide matching funds to cover the necessary support services and staff.

Administration Summary:

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will be responsible for the management and oversight of the program. DCA 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.

Use of Funds - 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).

Use of Funds - Activities Carried Out Directly:

- 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 the program notice.

Maximum award is \$510,000 per grantee.

Use of Funds - Eligible Subrecipients:

Government entities and nonprofit organizations that have experience in providing housing and services to individuals in recovery from substance use disorders.

Use of Funds - Criteria for Evaluation:

The State will use the following criteria when evaluating applications:

- Applicant’s experience with individuals with substance use disorders and providing sober living services
- Previous experience with federal awards and/or collaborating with other federal programs, including HUD and HHS
- Assessment of need (data and explanation of unmet needs)
- Link to existing services
- Timeline to complete project (evidence that the proposed project will ensure timely expenditure of funds)
- Proposed project budget (including other funding sources that are dedicated to the project)
- A plan for providing annual outcome data including the proposed number of Individuals assisted with RHP funding, proposed number of individuals who are able to transition to permanent housing and how the project will measure success.

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 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.

Projected Outcomes

- Number of new recovery houses created: 2
- Minimum number of bedrooms: 5 per recovery house
- Minimum number of individuals assisted per year: 10
- Minimum number of participants that transitioned into permanent housing: 10

Expenditure Plan:

DCA will comply with all RHP guidelines and expend at least 30% of the funds

within year one as required. 100% of RHP funds will be expended prior to the end of the period of performance.

Administrative costs will not exceed 5% of the grant. Any program income generated will be used to continue RHP eligible activities.

To ensure that 30 percent of RHP funds are expended within twelve months of execution of the RHP grant agreement with HUD, DCA will issue a RFP within 120 days of the RHP grant agreement. To ensure that 100 percent of the funds are expended by the deadline, DCA will closely monitor and work with the subrecipients to ensure timely expenditure of funds.

Citizen Participation Summary:

DCA shared the preliminary draft plan with both the Department of Human Services and their SUD agencies. The draft plan was posted on DCA's DHCR website on September 25, 2023 for 15 days and a public hearing was held on October 10, 2023.

Partner Coordination:

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will work in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Addiction Services and the current SUD agencies in New Jersey such as Integrity House, John Brooks House and Freedom House.

Subrecipient Management and Monitoring:

DCA will be responsible for the management and oversight of the program. All subgrantees will provide monthly status reports on the projects DCA will provide technical assistance and training for subrecipients to ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities under the grant.

Pre-Award/Pre-Agreement Costs:

The only costs incurred prior to the grant agreement to be reimbursed are the administrative costs associated with the development, submission, implementation of the RHP Program and Action Plan.