

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Labor-HHS Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor-HHS Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro and Congressman Cole,

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated our country's substance use disorders epidemic that continues to gravely impact families and communities. Nationally, overdose deaths increased in almost every state during the first months of 2020 with Louisiana and South Carolina topping the list with overdose deaths increasing by 62 and 65 percent respectively. States historically hard-hit by the opioid epidemic continued to be battered by overdose deaths in 2020 – Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia and Florida all experienced increases by more than 50%.¹

We are Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) and recovery community leaders writing to ask you to include a 10% Recovery Support Set-Aside in the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) for FY2022. On May 28, 2021, President Joe Biden delivered his FY 2022 budget proposal to Congress that includes a life-saving recommendation² for a dedicated new funding stream to support RCOs as part of a \$1.65 billion funding increase to the SABG program by requiring States and Territories to make an investment in community-based recovery strategies.

For decades, through the SABG program states and territories have been required to invest over \$350 million in dedicated primary prevention strategies, and the SABG and State-Opioid Response (SOR) pass through federal grant programs combined with Medicaid provides tens of billions annually for clinical addiction treatment services.

However, the urgency of the substance use disorder crisis in America requires bold new upstream and downstream investments that will leverage and exponentially scale the impact of recent addiction treatment expansion initiatives underway that Congress has supported in recent years.

Although funds spent on substance use disorder treatment in SABG and SOR are “eligible” to be spent on non-clinical recovery-oriented supports, each state, through the Single State Authority (SSA) determines how these funds will be used. Moreover, definitions of treatment and recovery support and allocation of expenditures on each vary widely among states as documented in the December 2020 GAO Report to Congress.³ The lack of a substantial dedicated funding stream has resulted in a woefully underfunded recovery component of the continuum leaving just 150 local communities with an RCO when compared to the over 15,000 specialty addiction treatment programs or the over 5,000 prevention coalitions nationwide.

¹ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2021/spike-drug-overdose-deaths-during-covid-19-pandemic-and-policy-options-move-forward>

² <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-fy-2022-cj.pdf>

³ <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-58.pdf>

To dramatically reverse this troubling trend, it is imperative that our substance use disorder crisis response evolve from an acute short-term individual-focused treatment response to a broader community recovery response where states and non-governmental organizations work in partnership to provide the full continuum of care. Funding must go to organizations that have same day capacity to deliver care

In late 2016, an entire chapter was dedicated in the United States Surgeon General's seminal report: *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health*⁴, focused on recovery and similar to other chronic conditions asserts that it takes five years of sustained substance problem resolution before individuals reach the point of recovery stability where their risk factors for a recurrence drops back to the that of the general population.

The kinds of activities that RCOs engage in to foster hope, connection and purpose across our diverse communities is vital. The specific activities of these organizations include:

- The development of local recovery community support institutions (i.e. recovery community centers, recovery homes, recovery schools, recovery industries, recovery ministries).
- Develop strategies and provide educational campaigns, trainings, and events to reduce addiction/recovery-related stigma and discrimination at the local level.
- Provide linkages to addiction treatment and recovery resources, and support system navigation needs.
- Provide accessible peer recovery support services that are diverse and inclusive of all pathways to recovery delivered in person or using technology.
- Collaborate and coordinate with local private and non-profit clinical health care providers and the faith community, in addition to city, county, state, and federal public health and criminal justice response efforts.

Please show your support for the millions of Americans in and seeking recovery by including a 10% Recovery Support Set-Aside in the SABG program for FY2022. The undersigned deeply appreciate your focus on this critically important matter. Please help us deliver this legacy of strong, stable funding to Recovery Community Organizations to save lives immediately and to dramatically scale recovery capital in communities.

Respectfully submitted,

National Organizations

Faces & Voices of Recovery
Third Horizon Strategies
Association of Recovery High Schools
Association of Recovery in Higher Education
C4 Innovations
C4 Recovery Foundation
Community Catalyst
Entertainment Industries Council (EIC)
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
International Recovery Day, Inc.

Legal Action Center
National Alliance for Medication Assisted
(NAMA) Recovery
National Alliance for Recovery Residences
National Center for Advocacy and Recovery for
Behavioral Health (NCAAR-BH)
National Rural Social Work Caucus
Oxford House
Partnership to End Addiction
SAFE Project

⁴ <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>

Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)
The Voices Project

Treatment Communities of America
Young People in Recovery

Alabama

Friends of Recovery Alabama

House of Fellowship

Arizona

Prescott Sober Living LLC

Sustony Sober Living LLC

California

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment
& Healing)
Addiction Recovery Communities of California
Bay Area Nutrition, LLC
Mental Health Systems, Inc.
Peninsula Health Concepts

Recovery Cafe San Jose
SIMPLY SPACED
The Purpose of Recovery
University of California, Davis
Valley Sober Living
Voices of Recovery

Colorado

Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Beyond Betty
Embark PCA
Jaywalker Lodge

Recover Simply
Sober AF Entertainment
Springs Recovery Connection

Connecticut

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery
(CCAR)

Recovery Branches
Say Unkel Entertainment

District of Columbia

Aquila Recovery Clinic

Delaware

Recycled Books inc

Florida

A Stepping Stone To Success
ABM Counseling Center LLC
Center for the Study of Drug Addiction Policy
Fellowship Recovery Community Organization
Fire Forged Recovery
Flagler Cares
Flagler Open Arms Recovery Services
Floridians for Recovery
Healthy Start Coal of Flagler & Volusia County

Liberation House
LSF Health Systems
Miami Recovery Project
Recovery Connections of Central Florida
Recovery Epicenter Foundation
Shining Light Peer Services
South Florida Wellness Network
Volusia Recovery Alliance, Inc.

Georgia

DIVAS Who Win Freedom Center Inc
Freedom through Recovery Susan Ford
Recovery Community Organization, INC

Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
iHOPE Inc
Impact Recovery Connections

J's Place
Last Shot Recovery
LivingProof Recovery
Paula Crane Life Enrichment Center
Peers Empowering Peers
People Living in Recovery Inc
R2ISE
Reboot Jackson

Recovery Bartow
STAND, Incorporated
the Arena
The Change Center
The Connection
The HUB of southeast Georgia
The ROCC
Woman with a Plan

Idaho

Latah Recovery Center

Illinois

Bridgeway
Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition
Encounter Medical Group, PC
Live4Lali

Lyons Township Mental Health Commission
Northern Illinois Recovery Community
Organization
Take Action Today

Indiana

5K Bird Walk for Recovery
Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition
Integrative Wellness

Next Step Foundation, Inc
REAL Recovery
The Artistic Recovery

Kansas

Working Men of Christ

Kentucky

Achieving Recovery Together, Inc
PAR - People Advocating Recovery

Voices of Hope - Lexington, Inc.

Louisiana

Saint Louis University Collegiate Recovery
Community

Southeastern Louisiana University

Massachusetts

Axis Building Corporation
Bay State Community Services
BECCA Foundation
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction
Recovery, Inc
One Shared Spirit

Outlook Associates of New England
ServiceNet
Turning Point Recovery Support Center - Bay
State Community Services
www.right-turn.org

Maryland

CMS Institute of Addictionology, Inc
HARBEL Community Organization

Wells House Inc

Maine

Coastal Recovery Community Center
Portland Recovery Community Center

True Nature Recovery Counseling

Michigan

Bear River Health
Beginning Step
Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.

Green Tara Holistic Recovery
Serenity House of Flint
Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health

Minnesota

Beyond Brink
Doc's Recovery House
Minnesota Recovery Connection
Niyyah Recovery Initiative

Recovery Community Network
Rise Up Recovery
Will Work for Recovery

Missouri

Child and Family Empowerment Center
Footprints Inc.
Harvest Outreach
Healing House, Inc.
Higher Ground Recovery Center
Mission Gate Ministry
Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support
Providers (MCRSP)

Ozark Recovery Housing
PreventEd
Recovery Lighthouse, Inc.
Recycling Grace Womens Center
Starting Point Outpatient Services LLC
Stepping into the light
The Embassy, Inc.
The Healing House and New Beginnings

Mississippi

Mississippi State University Collegiate Recovery
Community

Southern Recovery Advocacy

North Carolina

Methodist University, Fayetteville NC
North Carolina Higher Education Alcohol &
Other Drug Prevention and Recovery
Professionals
Project Lazarus

Recovery Community Of Durham
Reintegration Support Network
STW Counseling PLLC
Tia Hart Community Recovery Program

New Hampshire

Addiction Recovery Coalition of New Hampshire
Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center
Harbor Care
Hope for New Hampshire Recovery
Keene Serenity Center
Mt. Washington Valley (MWV) Supports
Recovery Coalition

North Country Serenity Center
Plymouth Area Recovery Connection
REALITY CHECK INC
Sharing With Out Shame
SOS Recovery Community Organization
The Serenity Center
TLC Recovery

New Jersey

CASA of Union County
Center for Addiction Recovery, Education and
Success (CARES)
Community in Crisis
Hansen Foundation

New Jersey Alliance of Recovery Residences
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and
Addiction Agencies, Inc.
The Center for Great Expectations
Xodus Recovery Community Center

New Mexico

Hozho Center for Personal Enhancement
Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program, Inc.

www.sherecovers.org

Nevada

Foundation for Recovery
Heart2Heart

Rural Remedy
There is no Hero in Heroin

New York

Foundations Recovery Center
Friends of Recovery - New York
Friends of Recovery Long Island (DBA Long
Island Recovery Association)
Friends of Recovery Rockland
In HIS Name Outreach, Inc.
Let's Talk SAFETY; Inc.
Mountain Top Cares Coalition
Nick's Ride 4 Friends
Orange Recovery Community
Recovery Coach University

Recovery Houses of Rochester Inc
Rob Constantine Recovery Community and
Outreach Center
ROcovery Fitness
Samaritan Daytop Village
Schoharie County council on Alcoholism and
Substance
Second Chance Opportunities, Inc
Staten Island for Partnership for Community
Wellness

Ohio

Exodus Recovery Support Services LLC
Hope United
Hope Village, LLC
Northern Ohio Recovery Association

The Briermost Foundation
The Phoenix Recovery Support Services
The Woodrow Project

Oregon

4D Recovery

Alano Club of Portland

Pennsylvania

Blairsville Support Group Against Drugs
Easy Does It, Inc.
ecoverycareers.com
Lost Dreams Awakening
Message Carriers of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Recovery Organization Alliance
(PRO-A)
Sparkling Solutions LLC
Sync Recovery Community
The Bridge Foundation

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico & Florida Recovery Training Academy

South Carolina

FAVOR Pee Dee, Inc.
FAVOR Piedmont
Midlands Recovery Center

Recovery Thrives
Savannah River ROC

Texas

Any Length LLC
APAA - Association of Persons Affected by
Addictions
Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
Communities for Recovery
Doable Recovery Institute
Knucklehead Recovery
Linda Baxter Therapy
Punto de Partida
Recovery Alliance of El Paso

Recovery Centered Living
Recovery Coalition of Texas
RecoveryATX
RecoveryPeople
The House of Extra Measures-Men, LLC
The Levenson Foundation
Thriving United
Two Roads Recovery
Willie Carter Outreach Center

Utah

Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)

Virginia

Culpeper Overdose Awareness
Georgia's Friends
Roads to Recovery, Inc
SpiritWorks Foundation

The Chris Atwood Foundation
The McShin Foundation
Virginia Tech

Vermont

In-Sight Healing
Journey to Recovery Community Center
Kingdom Recovery Center Inc.
Springfield turning point recovery centre

Turning Point Center of Bennington VT
Turning Point Center of Rutland
Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, VT
Vermont Recovery Network

Washington

The Communities Project

Trilogy Recovery Community

Wisconsin

Forward Brightly

Unity Recovery Services

West Virginia

Ascension Recovery Services
One Unique Recovery House, Inc
Southern Highlands Community Mental Health /
Concord University

West Virginia Sober Living
WVRECOVERS.ORG

Wyoming

Recover Wyoming