

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Blunt,

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%.<sup>1</sup>

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 recommendation<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

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

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

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*<sup>4</sup>, 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  
Kennedy Forum  
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  
Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)  
The Voices Project  
Treatment Communities of America  
Young People in Recovery

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

**Alabama**

Friends of Recovery Alabama

House of Fellowship

**Alaska**

Recover Alaska

**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

TriCircle, Inc.  
Say Unkel Entertainment

**District of Columbia**

Aquila Recovery Clinic

United States of Care

**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**

Center for Hope  
Latah Recovery Center  
Phoenix House Sober Living

Recovery in Motion  
Recovery Voices of Idaho

## **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  
Mental Health America of Indiana

Next Step Foundation, Inc  
REAL Recovery  
The Artistic Recovery

## **Kansas**

Working Men of Christ

## **Kentucky**

Achieving Recovery Together, Inc  
Newness of Life

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](http://www.right-turn.org)

CMS Institute of Addictionology, Inc HARBEL Community Organization	<b>Maryland</b>	Wells House Inc
Coastal Recovery Community Center Portland Recovery Community Center	<b>Maine</b>	True Nature Recovery Counseling
Bear River Health Beginning Step Detroit Recovery Project, Inc. Green Tara Holistic Recovery	<b>Michigan</b>	Michigan Association of Recovery Residences, Inc. Serenity House of Flint Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health
Beyond Brink Bold North Recovery and Consulting Doc's Recovery House Minnesota Hope Dearlz Organization Minnesota Recovery Connection	<b>Minnesota</b>	Niyyah Recovery Initiative Recovery Community Network Rise Up Recovery Will Work for Recovery
Better Life in Recovery Child and Family Empowerment Center Footprints Inc. Harvest Outreach Healing House, Inc. Higher Ground Recovery Center Lily's House Mission Gate Ministry Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers (MCRSP)	<b>Missouri</b>	Ozark Recovery Housing PreventEd Recovery Lighthouse, Inc. Recycling Grace Womens Center Springfield Recovery Community Center Starting Point Outpatient Services LLC Stepping into the light The Embassy, Inc. The Healing House and New Beginnings
Mississippi State University Collegiate Recovery Community	<b>Mississippi</b>	Southern Recovery Advocacy
Methodist University, Fayetteville NC North Carolina Higher Education Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention and Recovery Professionals Project Lazarus	<b>North Carolina</b>	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](http://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 Ethel Hardy House  
The Phoenix Recovery Support Services  
The Woodrow Project

### **Oregon**

4D Recovery  
Alano Club of Portland

Oregon Recovers

### **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

### **Rhode Island**

Access to Recovery  
East Bay Recovery Center  
Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction  
Recovery Efforts (RICARES)

### **South Carolina**

FAVOR Grand Strand  
FAVOR Pee Dee, Inc.  
FAVOR Piedmont

Midlands Recovery Center  
Recovery Thrives  
Savannah River ROC

### **Tennessee**

Maury Prevention Coalition

### **Texas**

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

Recovery Centered Living  
Recovery Coalition of Texas  
RecoveryATX  
RecoveryPeople  
Rise Recovery  
Texas Recovery Network Solutions  
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  
Hope Street

Trilogy Recovery Community

### **Wisconsin**

Forward Brightly

Unity Recovery Services

### **West Virginia**

Appalachian Recovery Alliance  
Ascension Recovery Services  
Freedom House Recovery Inc.  
Kanawha Valley Collective  
Lincoln County Community Outreach Program  
Newness of Life  
One Unique Recovery House, Inc

Recovery Point West Virginia  
Southern Highlands Community Mental Health /  
Concord University  
West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences  
West Virginia Sober Living  
WVRECOVERS.ORG

### **Wyoming**

Recover Wyoming