

## 2022 Advocacy and Legislative Session Priorities

Provide an increase in permanent base funding for all recovery centers along with one-time funding through federal dollars or other sources.

Ensure that the recovery centers and other recovery support services – as distinct from prevention and treatment - receive a portion of opioid settlements and that there is representation by people with lived experience on the appointed advisory committee determining the use of funding

Ensure that recovery services receive a specifically enumerated set-aside from tax revenues from the commercial cannabis market alongside and distinct from prevention.

Advocate for the legislature to consider implementing Overdose Prevention Sites, address legal barriers, and identify potential funding sources

Actively monitor and provide testimony on House Bill 505, An act relating to reclassification of penalties for unlawfully possessing, dispensing, and selling a regulated drug and House Bill 644, an act relating to decriminalization of a personal use supply of a regulated drug, with particular focus on the ramifications in terms of racial and other forms of equity

Support ongoing and forthcoming efforts, led by the Agency of Human Services and Department of Health, and supported by many in the human/social services, to create and fund a critical network of statewide stabilization centers for individuals who experience recurrences of substance use, mental health crises or other events that prevent them from staying in recovery residences or other facilities on a temporary basis (Senate Bill 194)

Support forthcoming initiatives underway to build a peer mental health certification system similar to the recovery coaching system (Senate Bill 195)

Support House Bill 462, An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Health programs, which will rename the division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs to the Department of Substance Use Programs

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Secure an appropriation of \$125,000 for Recovery Vermont to continue its statewide recovery friendly workplaces initiative

Support appropriations (\$340,000) in the FY23 VTrans/Governor's budget for the Recovery and Job Access program/on demand transportation options for non-Medicaid-eligible transportation needs, and \$300,000 for future fiscal years

Support Governor Scott's recommended appropriation of \$8 million to strengthen local substance abuse prevention and recovery efforts, expand residential treatment options and increase employment services.

The \$8 million appropriation is comprised of \$3.5 million for the Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition, \$3,729,750 for Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment, Sobering Beds, and Recovery Housing, \$270,250 for Substance Use Disorder Employment Services, and \$500,000 for Jenna's Promise.

Support our mental health partners to secure the following appropriations

- DAIL/DVHA/DMH and ADAP preferred provider rate increases 3% (GC match) \$7.1 million
- DMH and ADAP Mobile crisis expansion \$1.9 million
- Suicide prevention \$475k

Support appropriations via the FY22 Budget Adjustment Act to fund syringe service programs, including \$166,700.00 to support Syringe Service Programs whose funding through federal tobacco settlement grants ended on December 31, 2021. Additionally, we helped secure and will continue to advocate for passage of \$360,000.00 to provide for direct payment to staff at Vermont's 12 recovery centers and \$384,000.00 to provide support payment to substance use disorder staff within Vermont's preferred provider network. This estimate includes 73 nursing positions in eight Hubs and four Residential sites and 119 clinician positions across the preferred provider network

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## **Important Bills to Watch:**

H211, An act relating to recovery residences

[Bill Status H.211 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H225 (act 46), An act relating to possession of a therapeutic dosage of buprenorphine

[Bill Status H.225 \(Act 46\) \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H505, An act relating to reclassification of penalties for unlawfully possessing, dispensing, and selling a regulated drug

[Bill Status H.505 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H644, An act relating to decriminalization of a personal use supply of a regulated drug

[Bill Status H.644 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H679, An act relating to fiscal year 2022 budget adjustments

[Bill Status H.679 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H462, An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Health programs

[Bill Status H.462 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H153, An act relating to Medicaid reimbursement rates for home- and community-based service providers

[Bill Status H.153 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

S266, An act relating to substance use disorder treatment and overdose prevention

[Bill Status S.266 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

S194, An act relating to peer-operated respite centers

[Bill Status S.194 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

S195, An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists

[Bill Status S.195 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

S197, An act relating to the Coordinated Mental Health Crisis Response Working Group

[Bill Status S.197 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H531, An act relating to supported housing options for individuals served through the developmental services waiver

[Bill Status H.531 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H419, An act relating to limiting drug-related criminal liability and civil forfeiture actions against persons associated with an approved safer drug consumption program

[Bill Status H.419 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H665, An act relating to court appearances by misdemeanor defendants receiving residential substance use disorder treatment

[Bill Status H.665 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H212, An act relating to expanding the distribution and availability of opioid antagonists

[Bill Status H.212 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H.397, An act relating to recovery supports for individuals experiencing substance use disorder

[Bill Status H.397 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H.395, An act relating to addressing barriers to substance use disorder treatment

[Bill Status H.395 \(vermont.gov\)](#)

H.324, An act relating to coverage by commercial health insurers for costs associated with medication-assisted treatment

[Bill Status H.324 \(vermont.gov\)](#)