



Ohio Recovery Housing

35 E. Gay Street, Suite 401 | Columbus, OH 43215  
614-453-5133 (phone) | 614-228-0740 (fax)  
[www.OhioRecoveryHousing.org](http://www.OhioRecoveryHousing.org)

**Testimony of Danielle Gray**  
**Ohio Recovery Housing**  
**House Finance, Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**  
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Chairman Roemer, Ranking Member West and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Danielle Gray and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Recovery Housing. Ohio Recovery Housing is a non-profit organization with a mission to increase access to high quality recovery housing opportunities for Ohioans with substance use disorders. There are over six-hundred known recovery homes in state of Ohio, providing over six-thousand Ohioans with safe, stable and affordable environments to live in recovery.

I am here today to express gratitude for the acknowledgement of the need for recovery supports services and specifically recovery housing through the addition of \$1 million across the biennium for the recovery housing line item in the general revenue funds.

We know that recovery housing works. Ohio Recovery Housing has been collecting data on resident outcomes using a resident survey since 2016. A recent analysis of the survey results demonstrates the impact of recovery housing. 91% of residents who move out of recovery housing were moving out to their own home, rejoin their family, move in with a friend or other stable and independent living environment. 98% of residents indicate that they are connected to an ongoing recovery support that is likely to continue after they have left recovery housing. Only 21% of residents were employed when they moved into recovery housing, compared to 52% of residents at move out. A little less than half (48%) of residents had no income when they moved into recovery housing compared to only 33% of move-out respondents. These results indicate that residents of recovery housing not only provides support for recovery, but also helps residents gain employment, increase income and build lasting recovery capital for their future.

Now more than ever, it is critical to maintain the increased investment in recovery housing. As Ohio faces a growing addiction epidemic, this recovery support is going to be even more critical. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the addiction crisis, causing an increase in statewide overdoses and overdose deaths. In addition to opiate related overdoses and overdose deaths, we are seeing a concerning rise in misuse of alcohol and those seeking treatment for alcohol use disorder. Fifty-seven (57%) of respondents in the recovery housing resident survey are in recovery from alcohol use disorder. There is no dedicated federal funding stream to assist people with alcohol use disorder to ensure that they have access to needed recovery support services such as recovery housing.

Recovery homes did not shut down during the pandemic, and the costs of providing this recovery support have increased – on average of over \$50.00 per resident per month for additional cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, additional staffing, and supplies for technology to support virtual connection for residents to treatment and recovery supports.

The additional investment in recovery housing made by the Ohio General Assembly will help recovery housing operators meet the increasing demands of people with all types of addiction who need to continue to access this critical recovery support.

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