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# Recovery Homes: Myths & Facts

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# What is a Recovery Residence?

A recovery residence is:

- **A home**
  - Alcohol and drug free
  - Social model
  - Ethically operated
- It is not a boarding house, a hotel, or a hostel
- It is not as simple as making a reservation

# What Does a Recovery Home Look Like?

## - On the Outside -

- No set model
- It could be an old/new house, repurposed motel, duplex, single family house, a lakeside resort.

## - On the Inside -

- Kitchen w/ storage space for everyone
- Dining area w/ seats for everyone
- Living room w/ seats for everyone
- Bedrooms without locks on doors and plenty of personal storage space
- Plenty of bathrooms



Recovery residences might look like anything on the outside, but remember:

It's what's INSIDE that truly matters.



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# New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences (NHCORR)

Formed in 2017 by a group of recovery house operators who wanted to bring best practices to New Hampshire.

State Affiliate of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR)

Apply NARR best practice standards that are accepted by Congress and SAMHSA to NH recovery houses that choose to come forward:

- Certify
- Educate
- Advocate
- Mediate

Certification:

- Documentation
  - Building
  - Confirmation by Residents
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# Social Model

Peer Based  
Family Style Living

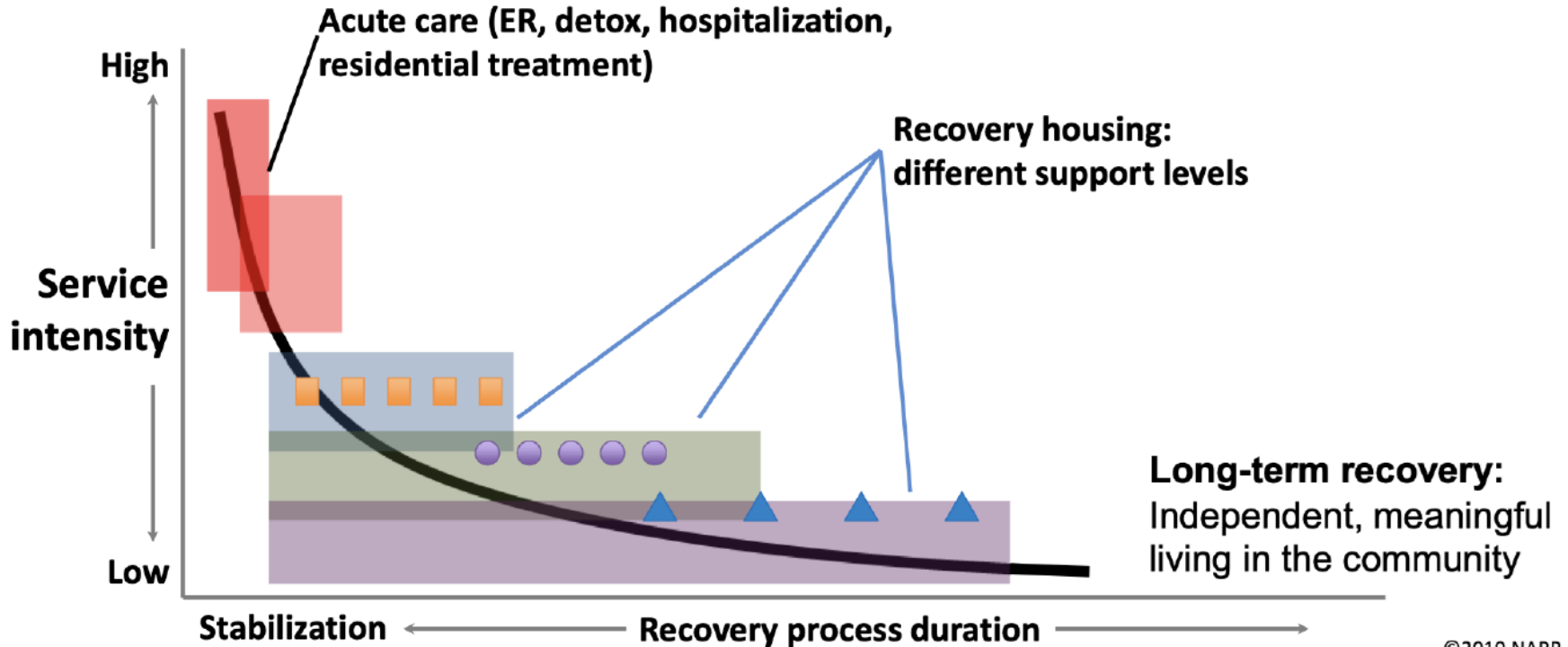
## Focus:

- Personal Interactions
- Individual's place in community
- Peer to Peer Interactions
- Individual Recovery Pathways
  - Fellowship

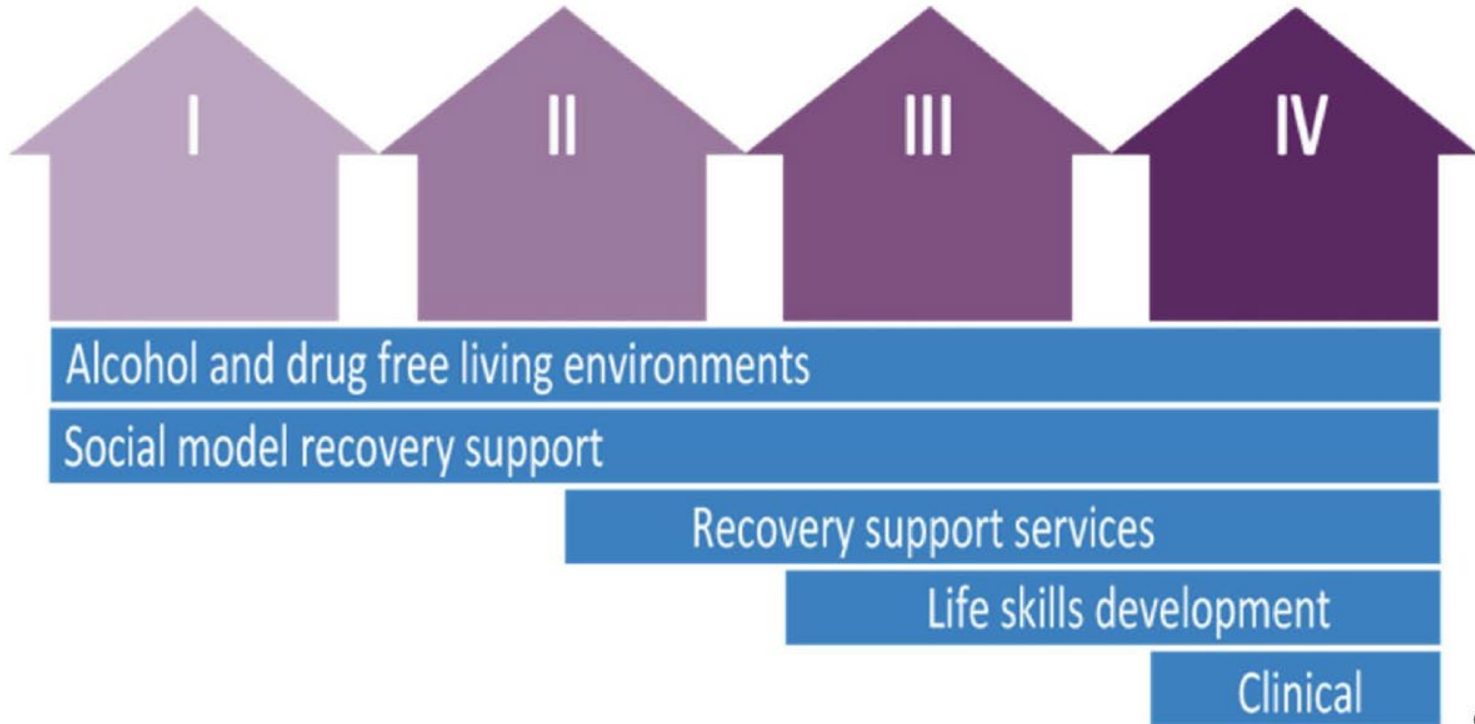
<https://echorecovery.org/blog/overview-of-the-social-model-approach-to-addiction-recovery/>

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# How recovery happens



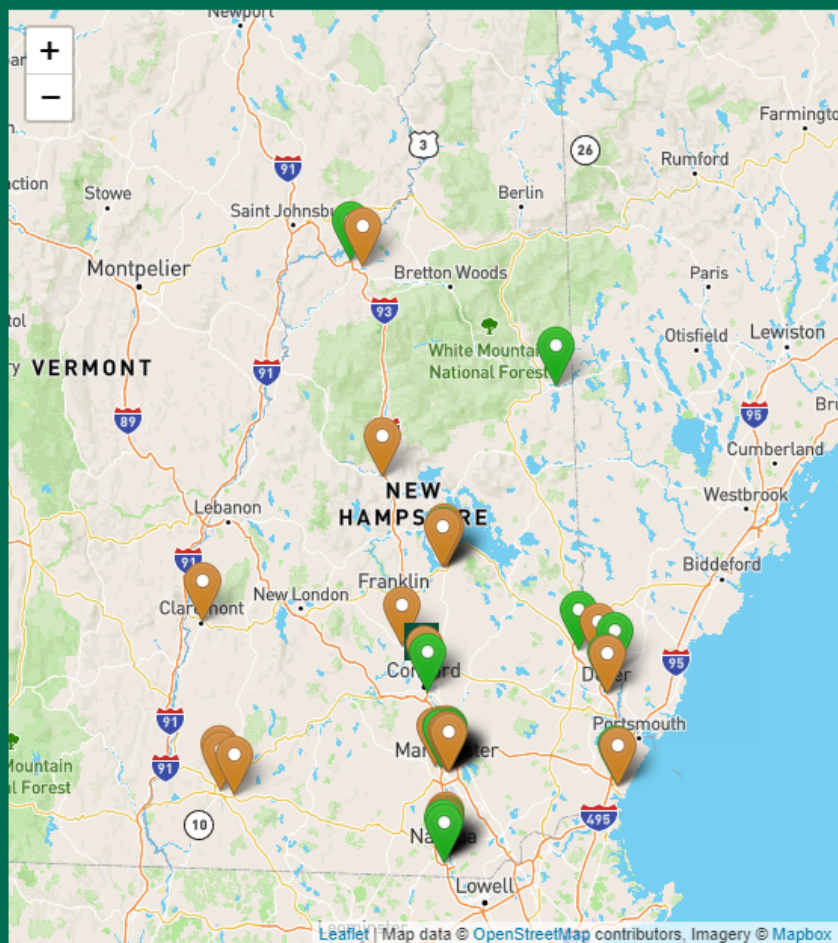
# NARR's four levels of service



## NHCORR Certified Recovery Residences

Certification Level	Number of Residences	Total Capacity
I	2	12
II	54	719
III	15	191
IV	1	24

Demographic	Number of Residences	Total Capacity
female-only	24	247
male-only	48	699





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# What does an NHCORR-certified recovery residence bring to a neighborhood?

- Assurance that the residents are
  - not using drugs or alcohol and do not have access to the same
  - Typically employed
  - Follow strict curfews and quiet hours
  - Using appropriate language outside the building
  - Parking in designated areas
- Assurance that the house maintains
  - Well kept appearance
  - Comprehensive guidelines for fire safety
  - Good neighbor policy
  - Standards that address safety in terms of operation and property
- Reliable Workforce
  - Responsibly holding down a job is part of recovery
- Community integration & participation: People in recovery need community, togetherness, and solidarity.
- Healthy communities embrace healthy diversity in age, gender, race and disability.



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# Fair Housing Act (FHA)

- Enacted by Congress in 1968, and subsequently amended to add additional protections
  - Regulated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Protects against disparate treatment and disparate impact
  - Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, familial status, and sex
    - Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of having such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment
      - Does not include current users of controlled substances
  - In enacting protections for persons with disabilities, a specific concern was the “imposition of health, safety or land-use requirements on congregate living arrangements among non-related persons with disabilities” that were “not imposed on families and groups of similar size of other unrelated people” 1988 U.S.C.C.A.N. 2173, 2185
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# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Enacted by Congress in 1990
  - “No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.”  
42 U.S.C. § 12132
  - *Olmstead* decision from U.S. Supreme Court in 1999 and the integration mandate
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## Issue and Case Examples

- Bans on development, spacing requirements, density limitations, restrictions due to alleged safety concerns based on stereotypes, unequal enforcement, failure to provide reasonable accommodations, discriminatory definitions of “family”
  - Gilead Community Services v. Town of Cromwell (2021)
  - Summers v. City of Fitchburg, 940 F.3d 133 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2019)
  - City of Edmonds v. Oxford House, Inc., 514 U.S. 725 (1995)
  - Oxford House v. Township of Cherry Hill, 799 F.Supp. 450 (D.N.J. 1992)
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# Recovery Homes

## Things to consider: Building Codes

- Number of dwelling units in the building
- Length of stay
- Number of occupants
- Number of stories in the building
- Determine if change of use. Are residents using building for intended purpose. One or two-family or multi-family
- Boarding house. A building arranged or used for lodging of compensation, with or without meals, and not occupied as a single-family unit.
- Consider Congregate Living option - IBC

Congregate living facility. A building or part thereof that contains sleeping units where residents share bathroom and/or kitchen facilities.

# NFPA 101 Residential Occupancies



## **Residential Occupancy**

An occupancy that provides sleeping accommodations for purposes other than health care or detention and correction.

## **Dwelling Unit**

One or more rooms arranged for complete, independent housekeeping purposes with space for eating, living, and sleeping; facilities for cooking; and provisions for sanitation

## **One- and Two-Family Dwelling**

A building that contains not more than two dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

# NFPA 101 Residential Occupancies



## **Lodging or Rooming House**

A building or portion thereof that does not qualify as a one- or two-family dwelling, that provides sleeping accommodations for a total of 16 or fewer people on a transient or permanent basis, without personal care services, with or without meals, but without separate cooking facilities for individual occupants

## **Hotel**

A building or groups of buildings under the same management in which there are sleeping accommodations for more than 16 persons and primarily used by transients for lodging with or without meals

## **Apartment Building**

A building or portion thereof containing three or more dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities

# One & Two Family Dwellings



One- and two-family dwellings shall be limited to buildings containing not more than two dwelling units in which each dwelling unit is occupied by members of a single family with not more than three outsiders, if any, accommodated in rented rooms.

Recovery House, RSA 153:10d

II. In this section, "recovery house" means a residence that provides a safe, healthy, family-like, substance-free living environment that supports individuals in recovery from addiction and is centered on peer support and a connection to services that promote long-term recovery; provided that "recovery housing" shall not include a halfway house or any other facility requiring a license pursuant to RSA 151.



# Variance Process-RSA 153:10d



## Exemption for Recovery Houses:

I. An owner or operator of a recovery house which is in compliance with rules adopted by the commissioner of health and human services under RSA 172-B:2, V for the voluntary registry for operators of recovery houses or who is certified by the New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences may apply to the state fire marshal and maybe granted an exemption under RSA 153:5, IV from certain requirements of the state fire code, provided the following requirements are in place: (see handout)