

2023 Recovery Voucher Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: February 21, 2023

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Client Eligibility & Status While In the Program

1. Does a person have to have an OUD (opioid use disorder) diagnosis within the past 12-months or does the 12-month rule only apply to having received treatment?

Answer: In order have an eligible OUD classification, the individual needs:

- To have an OUD diagnosis (not time dependent)
OR
- Record of receiving OUD treatment within the past 12-months (time dependent)

Agencies will also need to be able to document client OUD eligibility per the guidelines in the Program Manual (available on the [DEHCR website](#)).

2. In order for a potential client to be eligible does OUD need to be the primary diagnosis the client has or the primary reason the client is in treatment?

No, OUD does not need to be a potential client's primary diagnosis, nor does it have to be the primary reason they are getting treatment. However, for the potential client to be eligible they do need to have either received an OUD diagnosis at some point (doesn't have to be current, not time dependent) or they must have received OUD treatment within the past 12-months (can be along with treatment for other substances, or conditions).

3. Are people already staying in a recovery residence eligible for the RV program?

Answer: It depends. For a client to be eligible for this program they must meet the 2 criteria:

- 1) Have documentation of having an OUD diagnosis, or having had treatment for OUD within the past 12-months
AND
- 2) Be experiencing either category 1, 2, or 4 HUD defined homelessness

If the client can meet both of the eligibility criteria, the client is eligible to be supported. Below are two examples of possible eligible scenarios:

1. A client has been staying at a recovery residence for OUD treatment for less than 90-days and was homeless immediately prior to their stay. In this instance, the client meets the criteria by having received OUD treatment within the past 12-months and meeting the criteria for category 1 homelessness (literally homeless).
2. A client has been staying at a recovery residence for alcohol addiction but has been diagnosed with OUD in the past. The client will lose their bed within 14-days and lacks the resources and support system to prevent homelessness. In this instance, the client meets the criteria by having an OUD diagnosis (not time dependent) and meeting the criteria for category 2 homelessness (imminent risk of homelessness).

These are only two examples to illustrate possible scenarios and are not the only potentially eligible scenarios. More details about acceptable OUD documentation, definitions of HUD Homelessness categories and requirements to document each category can be found in the Program Manual or on the [DEHCR website](#).

4. Are RV clients staying in a recovery residence considered homeless?

Answer: Yes, with certain caveats. Similar to Rapid Re-Housing clients (funded through the Emergency Solutions Grant), RV participants won't be counted in Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-In-Time counts as homeless. However, for the purposes of applying to HUD-VASH and CoC funded permanent supportive housing, the time the client spends in the recovery residence will be counted as time the client was homeless.

Recovery Residence Co-Payments

1. Question: Are clients allowed to self-pay the difference between the RV Maximum Allowable Rate and what the recovery residence actually charges?

Answer: No. The client is not allowed to self-pay a portion.

If there is a good case to be made for why the RV Maximum Allowable Rate should be waived for a certain client at a particular recovery residence, DEHCR will consider waivers on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to the Grant Specialist (Emily.Bourne@wisconsin.gov) for additional information.

2. Question: Is it allowable to gradually have the client start paying a portion of the cost of the recovery residence (example: 0% client paid/100% RV Administrator paid for the first 3-months, then 25% client paid/75% RV Administrator paid in month 4-6, etc.)?

Answer: No. The RV Administrator should be paying the full cost of the recovery residence bed.

Recovery Residence Room/Unit Guidelines

1. Will the RV grant only cover a client's stay in a standard room (2 beds to a room) or are other types of rooms or units allowable?

RV grant funds can be used to cover the cost of a bed within a room in a DHS recognized recovery residence. Rooms typically have two beds per room. Rooms with more or less beds than the standard two per room can be reviewed and approved by the grantee on a case-by-case basis. If the grantee approves a room deviating from the standard two beds per room, they must document the rationale for doing so in the client's case file. The [2023 Recovery Residence](#)

[Program Compliance Documentation Form](#) available on DEHCR's website can be used to do this. The RV maximum allowable rate, and the requirement the rate charged to the RV grant is the same or less than the rate charged for beds not in the RV grant program remains the same. Both the RV maximum allowable rate, and equal or lesser rate requirement is independent of the type of room the client is housed in.

RV Maximum Allowable Rate

1. Question: If the RV Maximum Allowable Rate for a bed is 135% of FMR for an SRO (equal to 75% of FMR for an Efficiency x 135%), could 135% of FMR for a 1-bedroom be used for a recovery residence room with only 1 bed in it?

Answer: No. The maximum amount the RV grant will cover for any unit (bedrooms with 2-beds, or bedrooms with 1-bed, etc.) is the RV Maximum Allowable Rate of 135% of FMR for an SRO (or 75% of FMR for an Efficiency x 135%). The unit type does not impact the RV Maximum Allowable Rate.

If there is a good case to be made for why the RV Maximum Allowable Rate should be waived for a certain client at a particular recovery residence, DEHCR will consider waivers on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to the Grant Specialist (Emily Bourne) for additional information.

Stay Agreements

1. Question: On the stay agreement, it says "rent" and a recovery residence is concerned it could imply a landlord-tenant relationship. Could "rent" be changed to something like "residence fees" or "program fees?"

Answer: Agencies could change "rent" to something like "bed cost" and could add in wording that says, "This stay agreement does not constitute a landlord-tenant relationship between any parties including the agency (RV Administrator), client or recovery residence." DEHCR advises staying away from wording involving "fees" because the RV program doesn't pay for any ancillary services like recovery programming, meals, case management etc. at the recovery residence. The RV program will only pay for the cost of bed.