

2024 Recovery Voucher (RV) Grant Program Administrator Frequently Asked Questions

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Client Eligibility & Status While In the Program

1. In order to be eligible for the program, does an individual have to have been diagnosed with OUD (opioid use disorder) within the past 12 months or does the 12-month rule only apply to having received treatment?

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. If a person overdoses on a substance that isn’t an opioid but is laced with an opioid (example: fentanyl) and is treated in the Emergency Room, does this count as having received treatment for OUD?

It **does not automatically count** as having received treatment for OUD. It will only count as treatment for OUD **IF** the provider codes the treatment as having been for OUD.

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

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, 3 or 4 HUD defined homelessness (category 3 is new starting in 2024) on the day they enter the RV program.

If the client can meet both of the eligibility criteria, the client (and their family, if applicable) is eligible to be supported. A common eligible scenario for clients already staying in a recovery residence is:

The client has been staying at a recovery residence for alcohol addiction but was diagnosed with OUD in the past. The client will lose their bed within 14 days and lacks the resources and support system to find permanent housing on their own and 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).

- o Note, the recovery residence will need to issue a letter stating when the client will be asked to leave with a specific date in order for the RV Administrator to confirm the client meets the timing requirements for category 2 homelessness. It is not enough for the recovery residence to state the client is behind in paying rent or will be asked to leave.

This is an example of a common eligible scenario and not the only eligible scenario. 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](#).

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

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 while staying at a recovery residence. However, for the purposes of applying to HUD-VASH and CoC funded permanent supportive housing, the time the client spends in a recovery residence will be counted as time the client was homeless.

If the client was homeless immediately prior to entering the recovery residence and it has been 90 days or less, at exit from the recovery residence the client will meet the criteria for category 1 homelessness (literally homelessness). In this instance the recovery residence is being considered an institution.

6. Is someone who was homeless eligible for the program?

No. In order to be eligible for the RV program, the client must be homeless (meet one of the definitions of homelessness 1, 2, 3, or 4) on the day they enter the RV program. It is not sufficient for the client to have been homeless at some point before. They must be homeless when they enter the program.

It is recommended clients be entered into the RV program as soon as they meet both eligibility criteria, homelessness 1, 2, 3 or 4 and have documentation of OUD eligibility, instead of waiting for a spot in a recovery residence to open and then entering them. This way, there is not the risk the clients' eligibility will change in the interim and the RV program will not be able to support their stay in the recovery residence once the spot is found.

Recovery Residence Co-Payments

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

No, the client is not allowed to pay any portion of the costs for their stay in the recovery residence at any time.

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.

8. 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.)?

No. The RV program should be paying the full cost of the recovery residence bed for as long as the client is in the RV program.

Recovery Residence Room/Unit Guidelines

9. 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?

The standard for singles is a two bedroom. However, RV Administrators are allowed to approve different configurations if they think it is in the best interest of the client. They will have to sign paperwork providing rationale for approving a room outside of the standard. The [2024 Recovery Residence Program Compliance Documentation Form Single](#) can be used for this.

Families don't have a standard given the range of variables they present (family size, ages of members, etc.). Given this, RV Administrators will have to provide rationale for approving the room/housing arrangement when placing a family. The [2024 Recovery Residence Program Compliance Documentation Form Family](#) can be used for this.

There are two RV Maximum Allowable Rates, one for single clients and one for family clients. The maximum amount the RV grant will pay for a bed/unit remains the same regardless of the bed/unit type. See the [next](#) section for more details. In addition to being under the appropriate RV Maximum Allowable Rate, the rate the RV grant is charged must also be the best rate the recovery residence offers.

RV Maximum Allowable Rate, Past Due Rent, Holding Fees & Security Deposits

10. What is the RV Maximum Allowable Rate?

The RV Maximum Allowable Rate is the highest rate the RV program will pay to support a client type in a recovery residence on a monthly basis. The rate is based on [HUD Fair Market Rates \(FMR\)](#) in the area where the recovery residence is located. There are separate rates for singles and families.

The RV Maximum Allowable Rate for singles is:

$$\text{Efficiency FMR} * 75\% * 135\% = \text{RV Maximum Allowable Rate for Singles}$$

The RV Maximum Allowable Rate for families is:

$$\text{Efficiency FMR} * 135\% = \text{RV Maximum Allowable Rate for Families}$$

In addition to being at or under the RV Maximum Allowable Rate, the recovery residence will need to charge the RV program a rate that is the same or better than it charges all other clients (assisted or not).

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. The requirement that the RV program be charged the best rates will not be waived, however. Please reach out to the Grant Specialist (Emily Bourne) for additional information.

11. Does the unit type impact the RV Maximum Allowable Rate? Could it be calculated based on FMR for a 1-bedroom for a room with only 1 bed?

No. The maximum amount the RV program will cover for any unit is the applicable RV Maximum Allowable Rate. The unit type does not impact the applicable RV Maximum Allowable Rate. For example, say the RV Maximum Allowable for Singles (Efficiency FMR * 75% * 135% = \$100) is \$100, regardless of whether the client is sharing a room with one or two people, or whether the client has a room to himself, the maximum amount the RV program could pay for the bed would be \$100 (provided it also meets the requirement that this is the best rate the recovery residence offers any client).

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. The requirement that the RV program be charged the best rates will not be waived, however. Please reach out to the Grant Specialist (Emily Bourne) for additional information.

12. How many months of past due bed fees/rent can be paid per client?

None. The RV program will not pay for any past due bed fees/rent or past due security deposits.

13. Can the RV program pay to hold a bed for a client?

It depends. The RV program cannot pay to hold a bed for a client before the client moves into the recovery residence (example: paying until the client is ready to move into the recovery residence).

If the client has already moved into the recovery residence, and then goes missing, the recovery residence can choose to hold the client's bed (however they are not required to hold the bed) and the RV program will continue to pay for the bed up to 30 days while it is determined where the client is, and whether it is appropriate for the client to come back to the recovery residence.

14. What costs can be taken out of the security deposit at the end of a client's stay? Who should the security deposit be returned to at the end of the client's stay?

If the client has moved into the recovery residence, the security deposit should be returned to the client minus any applicable charges for damages at the end of the client's stay. Non-damage related charges cannot be taken out of the security deposit. If the recovery residence is claiming damages and not returning the full amount, they need to provide the RV Administrator with a list of those damages. The recovery residence must attempt to return the security deposit to the client for 30 days. After 30 days, the security deposit must be returned to the RV Administrator.

If the client never moved into the recovery residence, the security deposit must be returned to the RV Administrator, it cannot be returned to the client.

Stay Agreements

15. When do Stay Agreements need to be signed?

Stay Agreements need to be signed before or no later than the day the client's stay begins to be supported by the RV program.

Digital Signatures

16. Are digital signatures allowed? Sometimes it can be difficult or time consuming to meet with the client or with the recovery residence in person and complete all the necessary paperwork.

Yes, digital signatures are allowed through services such as [DocuSign](#).