

***South Carolina DAODAS/HUD  
Recovery Housing Program  
Fiscal Year 2024***

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## ***Program Summary:***

In partnership with the South Carolina Alliance for Recovery Residences (SCARR), Oxford House International (OHI), and our network of community providers across the state, the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) proposes the South Carolina Recovery Housing Program (RHP) in response to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Federal Register Notice No. FR-6225-N-01.

For many individuals, achieving and maintaining recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD) is hindered by a lack of safe, affordable housing that is supportive of the recovery process. Recovery housing extends the continuum of care to provide support to individuals as they initiate, stabilize, and maintain long-term recovery in the community. As the Single State Agency for Substance Abuse Services (SSA) in South Carolina, DAODAS will bring partners together to provide stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from an SUD. We will enhance physical and psychological safety through supportive transitional housing and short-term housing assistance and assist the public by improving their well-being through linkage to an array of wrap-around support services.

Through the implementation of recovery housing rental assistance from RHP funds, DAODAS will seek to address this gap and provide for greater access across all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic populations in the state. Safe, stable, recovery-focused housing addresses foundational physiological and safety needs, and removes barriers traditionally set in place by an individual's social determinants of health.

DAODAS' goal with the implementation of the RHP plan is to provide safe, stable, and recovery-supportive housing to individuals meeting the Limited Clientele National Objective described in the RHP Notice. As such, funds will be made available to those persons who meet the national criteria for low- to moderate-income individuals. It is believed that individuals who meet this criterion have historically found themselves priced out of receiving the same level of care as those whose income levels are greater. These increased financial burdens often force those seeking or maintaining recovery to focus on shelter and security needs at the expense of recovery efforts. RHP funds would directly impact individuals of low to moderate income levels by alleviating this financial burden and providing the basic security and shelter that are essential to individual needs.

DAODAS plans to provide applications for housing assistance via the agency's website. Applications will be submitted, reviewed, approved or denied, and correspondence sent to applicants as well as housing providers (as necessary). If an application is denied, an electronic communication will be sent informing the applicant and describing the reason(s) for denial. If approved, notifications – along with process logistics – will be communicated electronically to both the applicant and the housing provider when selected.

Through extensive work, DAODAS has developed significant partnerships that address the diverse needs of those entering and residing in recovery housing across South Carolina. Key partners include SCARR, OHI, S.C. Department of Commerce, S.C. Department of Corrections, as well as county alcohol and drug abuse authorities throughout the state. Representatives from these partners, existing and new, will be part of our advisory council for this program and serve as

referring agencies. As experts in recovery housing and SUD treatment and recovery services, each entity and their respective designees bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to bear when serving the public. This system will develop a comprehensive network of partners in recovery housing to address the well-being of participants and promote long-term recovery.

The focus of this initiative is to provide access to safe and stable recovery-supportive housing, while helping increase access to recovery-supportive wrap-around services. Additional key performance outcomes include helping individuals secure permanent housing, gaining employment, engaging in recovery support services, and ascertaining the demographic makeup of those in the program.

The South Carolina RHP will utilize statewide support to address the key gap in access to recovery housing in South Carolina. Safe and stable housing is an essential component of sustained recovery from an SUD. This application's award of \$1,246,462.00 under the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY24) allocation will be used in the furtherance of the nationwide objectives set forth in the announcement. During the life of this funding, DAODAS anticipates serving 350 unique individuals, helping five unique individuals secure permanent housing, increasing access to recovery support services for 250 individuals, and helping 150 individuals gain employment.

### **Statement of Need**

There are more than 378,000 individuals in recovery from an SUD in South Carolina and 1,443 beds that meet national standards available to the public. This is up from 808 prior to the program's inception. The S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office reports that 703,004 residents of the state were living in poverty as of 2020. This is 13.8% of the population. While national averages indicate that between 9% and 10% of the population have SUD challenges, some studies place the percentages for those with an SUD as high as 12.6% (Thompson, et. al., 2013). Using the modest 9% figure, statistics imply that 63,270 people living in poverty in South Carolina have an SUD. This presents a significant barrier for those with an SUD who are living in poverty to obtain safe and supportive housing. Additionally, lack of ability to pay for housing places other significant burdens on those who have been provided "provisional" or short-term subsidized admittance. With a focus on gaining immediate employment to maintain shelter, individuals are not afforded the opportunity to explore all possible recovery-supportive services available to them. This shifts the individual's focus from recovery to employment. By providing for longer-term rental subsidies, the individual in recovery is afforded the opportunity to have their basic needs met and focus their attention on their SUD needs.

### **Geographic Distribution**

South Carolina recovery residences that meet national standards are centralized in 15 (up from 13 prior to the program's inception) counties. These counties span all four regions of the state – the Upstate, Lowcountry, Pee Dee, and Midlands.

### **Populations Served**

Oxford House in South Carolina serves men, women, and women with children. Oxford House currently has 824 beds for men (up 88% from pre-RHP numbers), 149 beds for women (up 10% from pre-RHP numbers), and 125 beds for women with children (up 21% from pre-RHP numbers). The number of beds dedicated to women with children constitutes a significant gap across the state. SCARR-certified houses offer 615 beds (a 373% increase from pre-RHP numbers); 442 are men's

beds (up 306% from pre-RHP numbers) and 193 are women's beds (up 87% from pre-RHP numbers). Funds from the RHP will help reach those individuals whose social determinants of health have traditionally precluded, or significantly hindered, their ability to secure safe and stable housing along with wrap-around recovery support services. This has been especially true of underserved populations, including African Americans, the Latinx populations, LGBTQ+ populations, and citizens returning from incarceration.

### **Resources**

DAODAS partners with other state agencies, non-profits, private organizations, and county agencies to provide resources and services for those seeking and/or maintaining recovery from an SUD.

DAODAS is the SSA for South Carolina and is tasked with the administration of prevention, treatment, recovery, and intervention services, as well as compliance oversight for federally funded SUD providers throughout the state. DAODAS administers funding and compliance for 31 county agencies that deliver direct services in all 46 counties. As such, DAODAS serves as the fiduciary agency that administers multiple federal grants. Many of these grants support initiatives consistent with the goals of the RHP, such as the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), as well as the State Opioid Response Grant (SOR) from SAMHSA and its predecessor, the State Targeted Response Grant (STR). Through these funding sources, DAODAS provides financial mechanisms to deliver evidence-based practices for prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery-support services. These organizations provide the wrap-around services needed for those individuals seeking or maintaining recovery from an SUD. All 31 county agencies are CARF or Joint Commission accredited. Six of the 13 recovery community organizations in the state are accredited by the Association of Recovery Community Organizations. The state's opioid treatment providers (OTPs) are CARF accredited.

### ***Administration Summary:***

Jan Nerud, DAODAS Grants Administrator, will serve as the Project Director for South Carolina's Recovery Housing Program. As the Project Director, his primary roles will be to ensure both fidelity and comprehensive coordination for application review, participant communication, and coordination of fund disbursement to all approved housing entities. Mr. Nerud has a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Psychology, has been certified as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), has over eight years of behavioral health experience, and is the current point of contact for recovery housing projects in the state.

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## **Use of Funds**

<i>Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Method of Distribution</i>	<i>Amounts</i>
Total Award	\$1,246,462.00
Administrative Costs (4.5%)	\$56,090.79
Technical Assistance (2.5%)	\$31,161.55
Recovery Housing Assistance	\$1,159,209.66

In compliance with award requirements, 30% of the funding for housing assistance from the FFY24 allocation, totaling \$373,938.60, will be expended within the first 12 months of program implementation. As stated previously, all funds will be expended to serve those individuals that meet the Limited Clientele National Objective set forth in the RHP announcement. All funds will be used to serve individuals identified as being at low to moderate income levels to provide unencumbered access to basic housing and security needs.

OHI and SCARR will submit monthly reimbursement requests to DAODAS by the eighth working day of the month for residents in their respective homes. These requests will be for the previous month's totals. DAODAS will submit drawdown requests via Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) and make payments to OHI and SCARR, which will be responsible for disbursing payments to individual houses. Monthly assistance will be available for up to \$1,250.00 per applicant, to be used to cover the approved applicant's rental fees. This fee was determined by comparing local rental fees, recovery residence fees, and income levels for potential participants. Based on this research, it was determined that this level of support would allow the greatest amount of access without financially excluding one organization over another.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants for the RHP must identify as being in, or seeking, recovery from an SUD and meet low-to-moderate-income guidelines in accordance with the stated Limited Clientele National Objective set forth in the RHP announcement. Individuals who are currently housed in a recovery home and are seeking rental assistance may be eligible for funding; however, any individual who has been a resident of a recovery home – at the time of submitting their application – for 91 days or more (uninterrupted) shall not be eligible for funding. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for extenuating circumstances at the sole discretion of the Project Director. Priority will be given to individuals who are currently unhoused. No funding will be disbursed directly to a participant. All payments will be made directly to houses certified through SCARR, OHI, or rental sites with access to recovery support services provided by a DAODAS-funded initiative. Such rental site payments will only be made in a case where there are no SCARR-certified houses or Oxford Houses within a 50-mile radius of the participant's location. Funds will be available for individuals for a period not greater than six months, until permanent housing is secured, or until all funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

## **Criteria for Evaluation**

Individuals will apply via the DAODAS website and will be asked to provide information regarding their specific need(s) along with current area of residence and financial status. Individuals will be asked if they are currently seeking or are in recovery from an SUD and if they

are willing to reside in a recovery residence that is either a participating Oxford House or certified by SCARR. Additional demographic information will be collected at the time of application, along with agreements to participate in one-, three-, and six-month follow-up surveys for as long as they are utilizing RHP funds. Individuals will be approved who meet low to moderate income requirements, are in or seeking recovery from an SUD, state a willingness to reside in an Oxford House or SCARR-certified recovery residence, and participate in follow-up surveys.

### **Definitions**

- (1) *Individual in recovery*
- (2) *Substance use disorder*

For the purpose of this award, DAODAS has adopted and adapted two definitions by SAMHSA as follows:

1. An **individual in recovery** from a substance use disorder is a person who is in the process of change to improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.
2. A **substance use disorder** is the continual use of alcohol and/or other drugs in such a way that causes clinically significant impairment. This impairment includes, but is not limited to, physical and mental health, as well as impacts on social, economic, and familial life.

### ***Anticipated Outcomes and Expenditure Plan:***

#### **Expenditure Plan**

DAODAS will comply with all guidelines set forth in the RHP award notification. DAODAS will spend at least 30% of the award in the first 12 months of plan implementation. DAODAS plans to utilize 100% of funds prior to the conclusion of the performance period, September 1, 2027, and acknowledges that Section 8071(d)(2) states that no matching funds are required. The need to provide access to safe and stable recovery-focused housing is a substantial gap in South Carolina. DAODAS does not anticipate any significant barriers to expending all RHP funds. DAODAS' administrative costs shall not exceed 5% of the total award, and technical assistance costs shall not exceed the required 3% of the total award. There will be no program income generated because of this initiative.

#### **Outcomes**

DAODAS will develop a comprehensive data collection, monitoring, and reporting mechanism that provides detailed information about the RHP's impact on the state of South Carolina. DAODAS plans to track the number of individuals who gain access to safe and stable housing through RHP funds; the number of individuals who were able to transition to permanent housing that received RHP funds; the number of individuals engaged in recovery support services who received RHP funds; the number of individuals newly employed who received RHP funds; and the demographic makeup of individuals served through RHP funds. The Project Director will collect and analyze data to see if projected outcomes are being met. To track performance measures, everyone receiving housing assistance will be made aware of a one-month, three-month, and six-month follow-up survey that will be required to maintain program compliance. For those

individuals who utilize six months of funds or obtain permanent housing, voluntary satisfaction surveys will be sent to help evaluate participant perceptions of challenges and successes.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Projected Outcome</b>
Number of individuals who gain access to safe and stable recovery-focused housing	300
Number of individuals who transition to permanent housing after receiving RHP assistance	5
Number of RHP awardees who engage in recovery support services	250
Number of RHP awardees who gain employment	150
Demographic analysis of RHP awardees	300 (to be collected on applications)

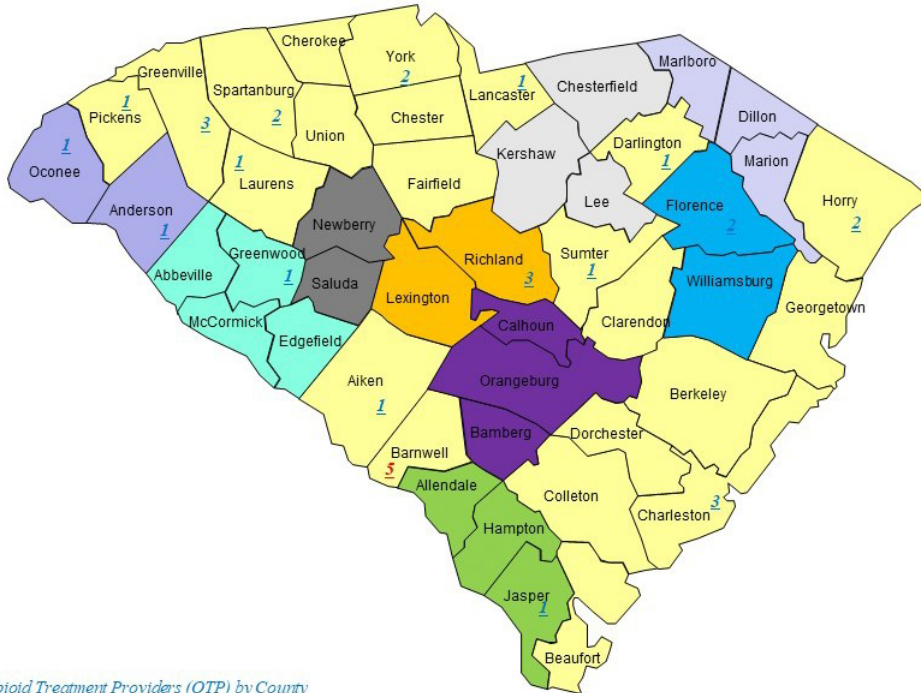
The RHP Project Director understands the requirements for data collection and reporting, and as a result will report all performance measures in DRGR. Annual reports will include comparisons between proposed and actual metrics along with qualitative descriptions of program practices.

Additionally, DAODAS will form a public advisory council that will be made up of representatives from OHI, SCARR, recovery community stakeholders, the DAODAS RHP Program Manager, and eventually RHP recipients, in order to collectively evaluate and inform RHP outcomes.

**Partner Coordination**



Figure 1. County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Authority and Opioid Treatment Program Locations as of August 2022

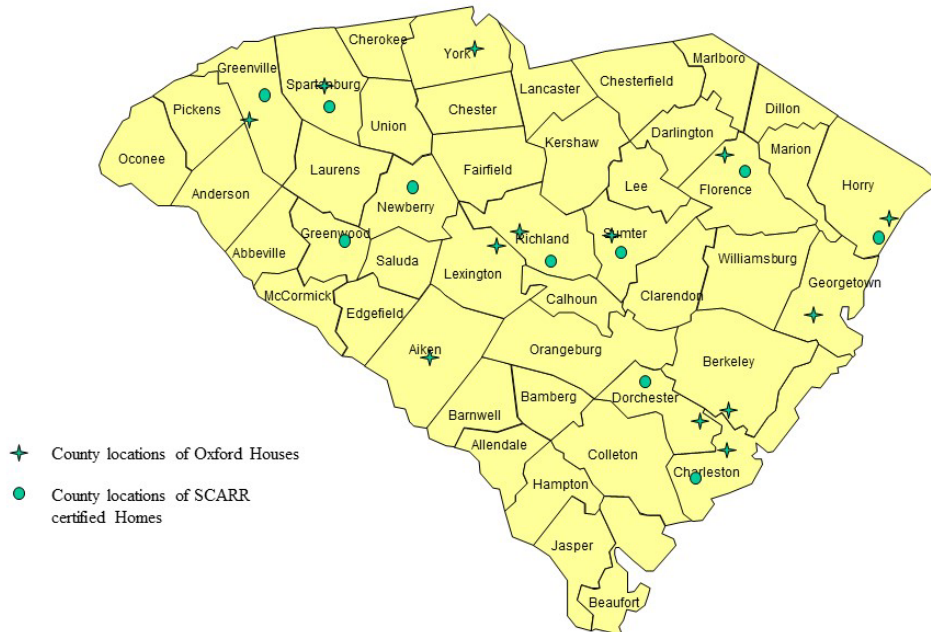


Number of Opioid Treatment Providers (OTP) by County

All Counties are served by local County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Authorities  
Multi County Agencies are color coded

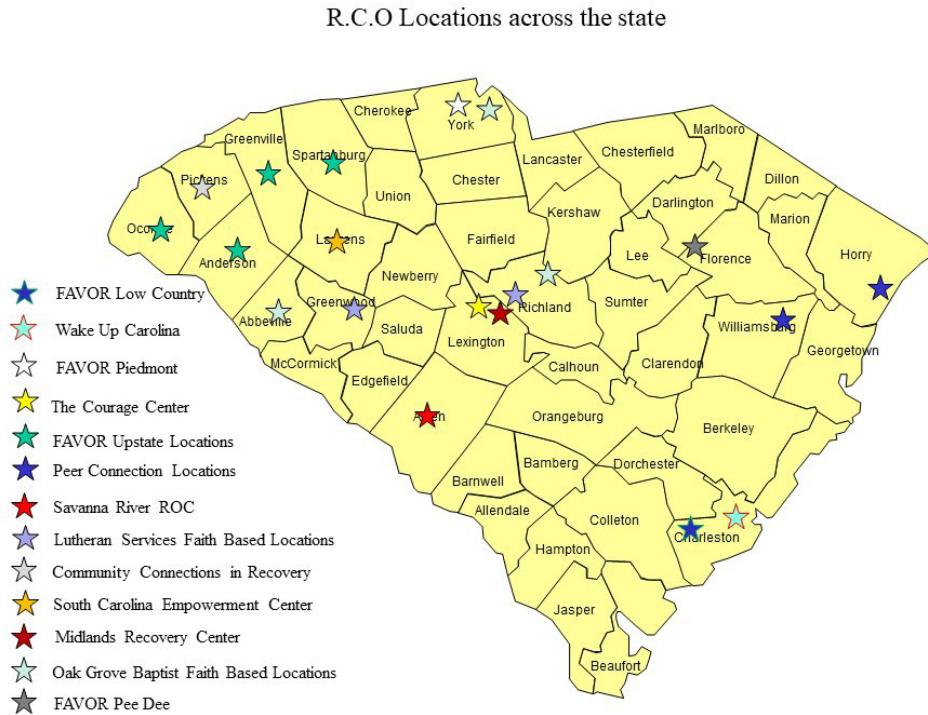
Figure 2. Recovery Residences in South Carolina by Type and County

### County Locations of Recovery Residences in South Carolina



★ County locations of Oxford Houses  
● County locations of SCARR certified Homes

Figure 3. Recovery Community Organizations in South Carolina



DAODAS has partnered with state, county, public, and private organizations for the successful implementation of increased access to recovery-focused housing and wrap-around services for South Carolina. Following are several of these organizations and the roles they play.

### ***Oxford House***

Oxford House is a long-standing housing concept in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction. In its simplest form, an Oxford House is a democratically run, self-supporting, substance-free home. The number of residents in a house may range from six to 15; there are houses for men, houses for women, and houses that accept women with children. DAODAS and Oxford House have maintained a strong relationship over the past 12 years, and as a result of this partnership, Oxford House has been able to grow in South Carolina and meet the ever-changing needs of those seeking safe and stable recovery-focused housing.

### ***South Carolina Alliance for Recovery Residences (SCARR)***

SCARR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was formed in 2018 to serve the recovery community by providing a single point of access for information regarding recovery residences and related organizations in the state. The primary focus of SCARR is the development and maintenance of clear and consistent standards for recovery residences in South Carolina and using these standards as the basis for non-biased certification statewide. SCARR strives to maintain clear communication regarding these standards of care for recovery residences and the associated communities, while ensuring credibility, ethical conduct of members, and excellence in all interactions with the South Carolina recovery community.

As an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences, SCARR is responsible for ensuring that the recovery residence certification process is consistent with the national standard.

### ***County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Authorities***

South Carolina contracts with 31 county agencies serving all 46 counties. Each organization provides comprehensive prevention, treatment, and recovery services through evidence-based practices. County authorities have medical, clinical, and peer support professionals on staff to ensure the highest level of efficacy in the delivery of direct services. DAODAS works closely with each agency on the framework for services, routinely provides technical assistance, and serves as the liaison between each agency and SAMHSA. These deep and lasting partnerships have built a bond of trust that benefits the public. The county agencies predominantly see a low-to moderate- income population and will serve as a major source of recovery housing referrals for the RHP.

### ***Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs)***

An RCO is a community-based, non-profit, peer-run center for “all things recovery.” DAODAS funds nine RCOs that provide a broad scope of services to support those seeking and/or maintaining recovery. RCOs will be able to not only provide recovery services for those *in* recovery housing but serve as a referral source for those in need of safe and stable recovery housing.

### ***S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC)***

DAODAS serves those currently incarcerated through a partnership with SCDC to provide peer support services to individuals “behind the wall.” This DAODAS initiative provides for medication-assisted treatment/recovery for those currently incarcerated and soon to be released. At this time, South Carolina boasts one of the lowest recidivism rates in the nation at a combined 23.1%. Those citizens returning from incarceration are in a greater need for increased access to safe and stable housing. Returning citizens are a priority focus for RHP funds.

### ***Faith-Based RCOs***

DAODAS recently awarded funds to three faith-based/focused RCOs. These are the first of their kind in South Carolina and will increase access and engagement of recovery support services available in the Midlands and Upstate regions. Faith-based/focused RCOs will be able to not only provide recovery services for those in recovery housing but will serve as a referral source for those in need of safe and stable recovery housing.

### ***Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)***

OTPs treat the public by assessing for, prescribing, and monitoring Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). An OTP provides counseling and education for a patient’s SUD needs, as well as the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). OTPs can be a stable and convenient point of facilitation for the treatment of OUD through the use of medication.

### ***Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRPs)***

DAODAS funds three CRPs across the state that provide a full array of wrap-around services to students in recovery from an SUD. As RHP participants explore ways to improve their lives and reach their full potential, CRPs will potentially play a role in participant’s lives.

***Subrecipient Management and Monitoring:***

DAODAS has the capacity and ability to ensure RHP programmatic implementation, monitoring, and reporting requirements. There are no projected subrecipients for program implementation.

***Pre-Award/Pre-Agreement Costs:***

There are no pre-award or pre-agreement costs to be reimbursed with RHP funds.