



RESTORING ROOTS

Restoring Roots is a non-profit organization founded by families and individuals who have been traumatized by Substance Use Disorder (SUD). We are committed to the development of Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing (PSRH) in Dane County. PSRH is an effective and economic means of treating SUD. Many states are turning to PSRH because it is reducing incarceration, recidivism, overdoses and effectively promoting restored health and return to employment.

Need for Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing

 The number of opioid overdose deaths in Wisconsin has increased 725% from 111 deaths in 2000 to 918 deaths in 2019.

 In the U.S. and in Wisconsin, more people die from drug overdose than from car accidents.

 In 2017, Wisconsin experienced an 83% increase in death rates from cocaine-involved overdoses.

 Wisconsin leads the nation in binge drinking.

 Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a 117% increase in overdoses in Wisconsin.

Permanent supportive housing can positively impact these alarming statistics and can significantly reduce emergency care and incarceration costs in the long-term.

Who Benefits From Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing?

Permanent supportive housing can positively impact these alarming statistics and can reduce health care and incarceration costs in the long-term.

The Supportive Recovery Housing project meets national standards (Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing) and provides long-term recovery support, job training, and education for individuals with SUD who are:

- a. completing rehabilitation program(s) and in need of ongoing support to build and sustain long-term recovery
- b. living unsheltered and in need of recovery housing in order to engage in recovery
- c. re-entering the community from the criminal justice system
- d. participating in drug courts
- e. diverting from the criminal justice system for SUD treatment and related support services

The PSRH model has been in use in Kentucky for several years with impressive results. 46% of those entering housing reported being employed, and upon discharge, 76% were employed. Illegal drug use and alcohol use declined substantially. Moreover, the cost of providing housing is two to three times less than incarceration or homelessness.

Project Description

We are proposing a **50-unit, \$15 million housing project**. Because those entering housing are unlikely to have income to pay rent, the project must be designed with little to no debt.

 We are requesting assistance in the identification of state funding sources to support the construction of this project, including allocation of general revenue funds, a set-aside of funds from WHEDA for recovery housing, or other state funds.

 We are also requesting assistance with operations with an allocation of housing choice vouchers and the purchase of beds by the Department of Corrections.

This PSRH model saves money and saves lives. Incarceration, homelessness, and repetitive use of emergency services are expensive. The model Restoring Roots plans to replicate is more than 2.5 to 3 times cheaper per day per person than homelessness or incarceration. Also, people who enter recovery housing are more likely to have increased rates of employment and higher transition rates to independent living.¹

¹ Polcin DL, Korcha RA, Bond J, Galloway G. Sober living houses for alcohol and drug dependence: 18-month outcomes. J Subst Abuse Treat. 2010;38(4):356-365. doi:10.1016/j.jsat.2010.02.003