

Establishing a Recovery Friendly Community (rev. 7/25/18)

This document is intended to provide guidance to municipalities that are interested in supporting those residents who are in recovery from a substance use condition by 1) raising awareness of the nature of such conditions, 2) promoting health and recovery by reducing stigma and discrimination and 3) building or improving the environmental factors necessary for "recoverees" to flourish. Expected benefits of a Recovery Friendly community may be reduced substance use, reduced overdoses, reduced crime, an improved community sense of compassion, humanity and citizenship, and positive statewide visibility.

		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
1. Municipal Leadership				
a.	The mayor, Town Council and/or Board of Directors is in agreement with developing a recovery friendly community.			
b.	The mayor, Town Council and/or Board of Directors has appointed a recovery "champion". The champion is a person who is committed to supporting recovery from substance use conditions and who is willing and empowered to lead the town/city-wide efforts necessary for becoming "Recovery Friendly" by convening Department heads, other leaders and persons in recovery* on a monthly basis to develop and monitor the community enhancements outlined in this document. (<i>The "RFC Planning Group"</i>)			
c.	The city/town has a "Local Prevention Council" and if so, this Council is integral to the mission of the Recovery Champion.			
d.	The town website reflects that it is a "Recovery Friendly Community".			
2. Municipal Department "Buy-In"				
a.	The Parks and Recreation Department hosts recovery-friendly activities and events.	Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
b.	The Schools offer: substance use and problem gambling education; alternative peer groups; family support for identified substance use problems; student recovery groups; recovery promotion and anti-stigma activities; etc.			
c.	Police and Fire Department personnel encourage treatment and other recovery approaches and are knowledgeable about local resources.			
d.	The Social Services and Health departments are well versed in treatment and recovery options that reflect multiple pathways of recovery.			
e.	The Human Resources department includes addiction and recovery awareness training as part of their new staff orientation and offers EAP services.			

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2. Municipal Department "Buy-In" (continued)		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
f.	The city/town welcomes safe and stable recovery housing.			
g.	There are community centers for youth and adults.			
3. Community Attitudes		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	Businesses are open to hiring people in recovery and advertise same.			
b.	The Community supports formerly incarcerated individuals.			
4. Community Resources		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	Residents know how and where to obtain Narcan.			
b.	Hospital emergency departments have recovery coaches available.			
c.	Residents know how to access peer support and mutual aid groups and are aware of other pathways of recovery.			
d.	Local transportation is available to individuals seeking treatment or a support group.			
e.	Residents know how and where to access treatment and other recovery resources.			
f.	Residents know how to access "Telephone Recovery Support".			
g.	Physicians that prescribe medication for substance use disorders are easily identified and available.			
h.	Family education and support groups are available.			
i.	Food, clothing and other basic supports are readily available.			

* *faith leaders and young people should also be included*