Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs



NH ALCOHOL FUND

To ensure New Hampshire remains committed to prevention, treatment, and recovery, policymakers must continue to fund the Alcohol Fund and utilize the funds for the intended purpose of supporting critical substance use programs statewide.

Financed through the revenues generated by liquor sales in New Hampshire, the Alcohol Abuse, Prevention & Treatment Fund ("Alcohol Fund") is an innovative, fiscally responsible, common sense approach to addressing substance misuse. The Alcohol Fund directs five percent of the gross profits of alcohol sales to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Despite being a state law, the Alcohol Fund has historically been underfunded - the 2023 budget cycle was the first time since the program's inception that the Alcohol Fund was fully funded at 5% of gross profits.

The following profiles are a sample of the more than 100 organizations that receive funding for prevention, treatment and recovery work in New Hampshire.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

The New Hampshire Student Assistance Program (SAP) is an evidence-based school program for middle and high school students working through individual, family, and peer issues that disrupt their educational success and chance to thrive.

The goal of SAP is to provide students with extra support to learn life skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and empathetic listening.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the Student Assistance Program served 15,418 students, helping them lower disciplinary violations, get through school successfully, and improve school attendance and grades.

The NH SAP model is based on Project Success, a nationally recognized, evidence-based program focusing on prevention, early intervention, and referral.



THE PARTNERSHIP @DRUGFREENH

The Partnership is a collaboration between the NH Department of Health and Human Services, the NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs, the NH Charitable Foundation, and the NH Center for Excellence/JSI. Together, the Partnership helps individuals and families in New Hampshire get informed and get help when they need it.

In 2024, the Partnership published informational toolkits covering topics like Preventing Teen Drinking, #DryJanuary, National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, National Prevention Week, and Sober October.

The Partnership also produces a popular podcast, **The Power of Prevention**, where they host conversations about navigating social pressures, harm reduction, working together to end teen dating violence, the stigma of addiction, the science around how cannabis can impact the teen brain, and more.

ADAPT/CAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. CAMPTON NH

The goal of ADAPT is to organize, coordinate, and administer an alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse, prevention and intervention program that addresses the needs of youth ages 5 to 21 in the communities we serve.

ADAPT collaborates with area schools, local businesses, police, community members, and other agencies to achieve this goal. They offer a wide variety of programs and services that offer alternatives to using and abusing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Programs provide positive alternative activities for youth in the towns of service by empowering youths to lead and promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Some of the programs include individual consultation, referrals to agencies, educational information, peer support groups, anti-smoking groups, social skills groups, and a Leaders in Prevention group. After-school activities, open gym, pro-social activities, educational speakers, and one-on-one mentorships are also offered.



Without programs like these, students could grow up lacking the protective factors that effectively prevent them from developing substance use disorders. We know how essential and powerful prevention education is, and that is directly what ADAPT provides with these programs. Not enough is said about the impact it has on the whole family as well. When kids are happy and healthy and inoculated with positive, preventative experiences, it tends to impact and influence the family dynamic in a very positive way! Imagine the stress it takes off the family to know that the child is safe and being taught the skills and experiences to increase their chances of a happy and healthy adulthood! It can be life-changing for the family! If you yourself are a parent, you know your own happiness and satisfaction with life, the stability of your family directly correlates to your child's life experiences.

The programs offered by ADAPT, including the mountain biking club and WYLD (Wilderness Youth Leadership Development) and soon YLTA (Youth Leadership Through Adventure), allow kids in this area to connect with their surroundings, engage with the wealth of natural resources in this area, explore social relationships in a neutral environment and build skills that are essential for their future adult life.

Parents have expressed how positively it impacts their child and how much they look forward to Wednesday after school. It starts in the morning when they get up! We have observed so many positive interactions between kids on Wednesdays in anticipation for the club after school. It's inspiring and refreshing.

ARCHWAYS CONCORD, FRANKLIN, PLYMOUTH & TILTON NH

New Hampshire's Recovery Community Centers, supported by the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, are a critical tool in the state's battle against the ongoing addiction crisis.

Recovery centers provide a wide range of peer recovery support services and community-building activities and serve thousands of individuals in recovery or seeking recovery from Substance Use Disorder, helping individuals build relationships and connect to resources, including housing, employment, health care, and other social services essential to their long-term recovery and health.

Since 2016, when the Governor's Commission first funded the recovery centers through a Facilitating Organization (FO), 20 recovery centers have opened their doors. These recovery centers are currently supporting 7,750 individuals and have expanded their programs and services to include more virtual and hybrid supports to allow individuals to engage remotely and better balance work, home and health needs.



Archways works with individuals who are struggling with some form of substance. We also have a huge population of the unhoused community which with this population we utilize and work the harm reduction model with them.

Losing funds from the Governor's Commission/Alcohol Fund would be devastating and catastrophic to not only the state of NH as a whole but also to every Recovery Organization and every community we serve. Families would be torn apart; children would lose their parents. Archways has made such positive strives and great impacts that is would be a shame to not be able to continuing moving the right direction and that is exactly what would happen if we were to lose any funding at all.

"If it were not for the RCOs and CRSW trainings that places like Archways facilitates, I myself would not be six years in active recovery or five years of working in this field or have my three children back in my life full time and being able to support them through there challenges in their own lives. It was because of places like this I was given the opportunity to give back to our communities and walk beside the unhoused population or the individuals who are seeking help. It is an honor and privilege of mine to be able to be a part of such a wonderful organization, team and state as we are helping one person at time." - Samantha Merrifield, Certified Recovery Support Worker, Archways, Tilton NH

N.H. PARTNERSHIP FOR RECOVERY RESIDENCES (NHPRR)

The New Hampshire Partnership for Recovery Residences (NHPRR) helps to build a strong foundation for recovery from substance use disorders by serving as the state's only designated certifying body for recovery residences. NHPRR inspects and certifies recovery homes annually to ensure they meet New Hampshire's high standards and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. NHPRR also maintains a confidential complaint system so staff can receive and investigate complaints involving noncompliance. This system protects complainants' anonymity while allowing NHPRR to collect information and maintain communication over the course of an investigation.

Only NHPRR-certified houses are eligible to be listed on the state's Voluntary Recovery Housing Registry, which is used to determine eligibility for state housing scholarships and assistance. In addition to certification, NHPRR also provides training, technical assistance, and other support to new, existing, and potential recovery residence owners/operators to improve the supply and quality of housing. NHPRR works with local and state policymakers, community members, and stakeholders to promote a robust supply of safe, effective, and healthy recovery residences across the state and reduce stigma. NHPRR's Advisory Board comprises individuals with extensive professional and lived experience who have no financial ties to recovery residences, ensuring conflict-free leadership and guidance.

Since becoming the state's designated certifying body in SFY 2025, NHPRR has developed state-specific standards for certification that align with national best practices, adhere to all local, state, and federal laws, and contain clear prohibitions against unethical housing practices. To date, NHPRR has certified or provisionally certified 11 new recovery residences and recertified 68 residences. This process has included identifying and improving recovery residence compliance with state and local fire and zoning codes and national best practice through inspections, training and technical assistance, and complaint investigation.

Funding from the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs makes it possible for NHPRR to carry out its critical functions of certification and complaint investigation using processes that are bias- and conflict-free. The funding also supplies essential resources for training, technical assistance, and other support to recovery residence owners/operators and residents.





NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY HOUSING PROGRAM (CHP)

The New Hampshire Community Housing Program (CHP) works to provide essential housing bridge support to qualifying individuals who are in imminent need. In order to remain successful in recovery and significantly decrease chances of recidivism, safe and reliable housing is imperative.

The New Hampshire Judicial Branch (NHJB) in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (DOC), and the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), aim to provide temporary housing support to individuals who are diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and are court-involved, including those who are re-entering the community under supervision of parole; in the community under supervision of probation; or participating in the New Hampshire Adult Drug Court Program, Family Treatment Court Program, or Mental Health Treatment Court) are eligible to receive housing assistance through the CHP. The need for safe housing is greater than ever before. The NH Community Housing Program aims to establish contractual relationships with a variety of housing options in order to best serve the diverse

level of needs in our state.



Earlier this year, a participant received three months of bridge support from the Community Housing Program while on parole following release from incarceration due to drug-related offenses. Her sobriety was a top concern upon release, so she began in recovery housing.

She built a solid foundation in the recovery community, found a job that she enjoys showing up to every day, and was able to coordinate care to ensure she had stability for her mental health. She was also able to meet all requirements of the parole board and, at the end of her three months in recovery housing, was able to obtain her own apartment without needing additional financial support for housing. This would not have been possible for her to do without the short-term financial support of the Community Housing Program.

This is just one of many stories like this where the CHP has been able to help folks in recovery stabilize during a time of transition and go on to achieve self-sufficiency while they continue in their recovery journey.

DOVER YOUTH TO YOUTH

Dover Youth to Youth is a youth empowerment program engaging middle and high school youth in substance misuse prevention and other behavioral health issues. Students gain knowledge about community issues, build skills and take action in their community to create change.

The Governor's Commission supports **Service to Science**, which is a valuable program that helps advance prevention work in the state by identifying innovative programs, helping them design and conduct program evaluations, and supporting the replication of evidence-based programs or best practices. If Service to Science was eliminated, Dover Youth to Youth would be unable to renew our evidence-based status which would have a significant impact on our sustainability and the promotion of best practices in prevention.

Over a decade ago, the program completed a comprehensive evaluation that resulted in the program and model of youth empowerment being recognized as evidence-based. The evidence-based endorsement shows that we have demonstrated positive change among participants and at the community level. This has resulted in being able to provide technical assistance and resources to communities across the country.

HARBOR CARE, NASHUA NH

Harbor Care is an innovative network of nonprofit health care, housing and human services helping adults, children, and families of New Hampshire find solutions to many of life's most challenging issues. In 2023, Harbor care helped more than 5,000 individuals and families access safe housing; medical, dental, and mental health care; substance use treatment; employment services; food; transportation; and more.

Through the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs, Harbor Care facilitates peer support and technical assistance to 21 recovery community centers across New Hampshire. If Harbor Care lost Governor's Commission funding, all homeless outreach and distribution of supplies would stop across seven recovery centers. Harbor Care would also not have the funding to support all 21 centers - without funding, Harbor Care would likely see the closure of five to 10 recovery centers.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (MTSS-B)

"In 2013, Laconia community and school leaders collaboratively acknowledged the challenges their students were facing and how they were impacting student readiness to learn.

The collective feeling was that something needed to be done – something that transcended traditional academic approaches to improving student engagement learning – to a broader focus on student wellness, mental health, and how educators interacted with students in need," wrote the Behavioral Health Improvement Institute at Keene State College in March 2021 in their report, A Whole School Approach: Laconia School District's Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness.

The report demonstrates how Laconia selected the Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B) as its "evidence-based framework for building tiered prevention systems to support a continuum of [social-emotional learning] and mental health supports for students."



The results were staggering – as MTSS-B fidelity increased, office discipline referrals decreased. "After six years, ODR rates have dropped remarkably across schools. In the years between the 2013-14 school year and the 2019-20 school year, the number of office disciple referrals decreased by 54% at Laconia Middle School and by a staggering 74% from 2013-14 to 2019-20 at Laconia High School. Fewer office discipline referrals result in more instructional time. The Laconia School District has saved over 9,200 hours in student instructional hours since implementing MTSS-B.

A portion of MTSS-B funding comes from the Governor's Commission. To replicate the success of Laconia High School throughout the state, it is imperative that the Alcohol Fund is fully funded.

Promising Futures for NH is a two-pronged project funded by the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs via the NH Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) with support in the field from the NH National Guard.

Promising Futures for NH has proven to be a critically important project for sustainable MTSS-B implementation because it allows local education agencies to spend sufficient time in the exploration phase of implementation before making a final decision to adopt the framework.

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ROCHESTER, DOVER & EXETER NH

SOS Recovery Community Organization is a non-profit 501c3 recovery community organization in Rochester, Dover and Exeter, NH serving over 1,000 participants with recovery support services annually. SOS Recovery provides family supports digitally and in person and supports family support group facilitators across NH.

SOS Recovery also provides one of the most robust criminal justice programs across NH in Coos, Carroll, Rockingham, Strafford and Grafton County. They are in five different drug courts, and within the Federal District Court for their LASER program They also provide meetings in three different correctional facilities behind the walls working with the Deptartment of Corrections, Probation and Parole. SOS Recovery is planning to provide training to over 100 probation and parole officers and case managers in Motivational Interviewing this year for DOC.



Likewise, SOS Recovery hosts one of the largest peer-based recovery conferences in New England each April and has upwards of 8,000 visits to its three centers each year. In 2024, SOS Recovery opened a workforce development restaurant in Somersworth to help build sustainability while employing people in recovery.

If SOS Recovery lost Governor's Commission funding, the organization would cut positions and family support programming, and would likely close one recovery center. The impact would be devastating for the community they serve.

"SOS works closely with treatment programs to provide a continuum of care. Over the years we've partnered with Hope on Haven Hill in Rochester. We currently have three employees who not only came to us as entry-level positions but did so while moving into recovery housing out of Hope on Haven Hill. Our workforce development has resulted in one of them reaching a leadership role overseeing our Human Resources and recently received her Certified Professional from the Society for Human Resource Management. Another graduate of Hope on Haven Hill is in middle management after running our statewide criminal justice program and being promoted to oversee most of our recovery center staff and programming. We also have a third graduate of Hope on Haven Hill now running our mobile outreach efforts for people who are unsheltered." - John Burns, Executive Director, SOS Recovery Community Organization

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ALCOHOL FUND

1 in 5 deaths among U.S. adults ages 20-49 is from excessive alcohol use. In this age group, New Hampshire has the 12th highest rate of alcohol-attributable deaths.

The Alcohol Fund provides an innovative, fiscally responsible, common-sense approach to address a real need in New Hampshire.

History of the Alcohol Fund

Financed through the revenues generated through liquor sales in New Hampshire, the Alcohol Abuse, Prevention & Treatment Fund ("Alcohol Fund") was established in law in 2000. The intent behind the creation of the Alcohol Fund was to direct 5% of gross profits of alcohol sales to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery. The funding is administered by the NH DHHS Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs and provides funding to prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services.

How Much is Five Percent?

Year over year, the NH Liquor Commission announces record-breaking sales and revenue. In 2023, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission (NHLC) generated \$756.7 million in revenue from alcohol sales. Five percent of gross profits for the 26 and 27 state operating budget year are estimated at \$10.7 million a year. However historically, legislature has diverted or underfunded the Alcohol Fund since the law's inception in 2003.

Fully Funded AT LAST!

Thanks to extensive advocacy efforts, the New Hampshire legislature **voted to fully fund** the Alcohol Fund with 5% of gross profits from liquor revenue in its proposed 24/25 operating budget for the first time since it launched more than 20 years ago!

26/27 Budget

- Governor Ayotte fully funded the Alcohol Fund at 10.7 million with 5% of liquor gross profits.
- The House of Representatives voted to fund the Alcohol Fund with money from the state's Opioid Abatement Trust Fund, which would limit approved funding to services for opioid misuse only. This would mean that funding would be cut for services related to alcohol or stimulant misuse.

Proposed shifts in how the Governor's Commission is funded eliminates the state's ability to meet the needs of citizens struggling with alcohol, stimulants, methamphetamines and other non-opioid substances.

More than half of the Commission's contracts support non-opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

To ensure New Hampshire remains committed to prevention, treatment and recovery, policymakers need to:



Utilize the Alcohol Fund for the intended purpose of supporting Governor's Commission prevention, treatment, and recovery contracted programs and services.



Continue to fund the Alcohol Fund with 5% of liquor gross profits - \$10.7 million a year in 2026 and 2027 as outlined in the Governor's budget proposal.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol Related Disease Impact (ARDI) application, 2022. Available at www.cdc.gov/ARDI.

NHALCOHOL FUND MAKING AN IMPACT

Learn more about the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs:

mhcenterforexcellence.org/governors-commission/