

How Oxford Houses Work

The standardized disciplined system of operations has evolved since the first house opened in 1975, permitting replication of Oxford Houses throughout the country. All Houses are tied together to ensure mutual support and quality control.

Individuals living in an Oxford House™ learn or relearn values and responsible behavior to ensure comfortable sobriety. Some individuals live in Oxford Houses for a few months, others for many years. Applicants are voted in by the House members, and no one is ever asked to leave without cause - either a return to substance use or disruptive behavior.

Each Oxford House™ is granted a charter from the Central Office. The charter has three basic requirements:

- Each house must operate democratically,
- Each house must be financially self-supporting,
- Members who return to substance use must be expelled.

As Oxford Houses fill, more are opened to meet the need. Members inside the home become a family and support each other along their recovery pathway. Structure and safety in each home allow individuals to learn and grow. Oxford House™ provides its members the opportunity to become comfortable enough in sobriety that they never have to return to substance use.

Oxford House, Incorporated

Oxford House, Incorporated (OHI) is the 501 (c) (3) non-profit umbrella organization of the national network of individual Oxford Houses.

The primary purpose of OHI is to establish enough self-run, self-supported recovery houses to provide an opportunity for every recovering individual to learn a new way of life - forever.

Contributions and grants are used to expand the network of Oxford Houses by providing trained outreach workers to establish new houses and to provide ongoing organizational and technical support from a central office.

Time-tested Success

Oxford House has been listed as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices [NREPP] and was singled out as an effective tool for long-term recovery in the U.S. Surgeon General's report: "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, 2016."

"A leading example of recovery-supportive housing is Oxford House, which are peer-run, self-sustaining, substance-free residences that host six or more recovering individuals per house and require that all members maintain abstinence."

-U.S. Surgeon General (2016)

Contact Us

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Oxford House™

Est. 1975

Peer-run
Self-sustaining
Substance-free

THE BASICS

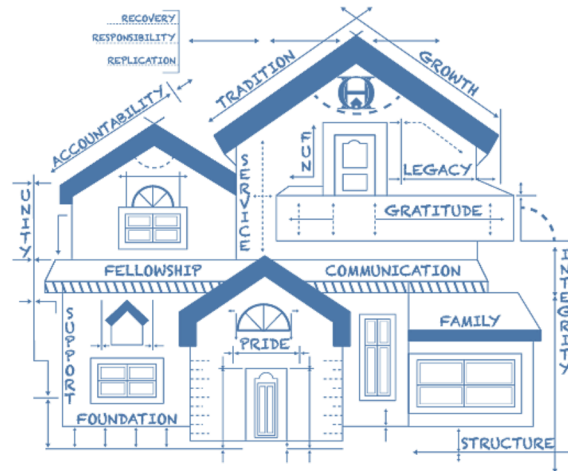
OXFORDHOUSE.ORG

National Data & Statistics*

Abstinence rate of members	77.1%
Members who misused opioids:	61%
OAD members who have used MAR:	47%
The average length of sobriety:	12.4 mo.
The average length of stay in a house:	9.5 mo.
Prior homelessness:	71.1%
Average time homeless:	2.2 mo.
Prior incarceration:	85.2%
Median incarceration time:	3.2 mo.
Members going to counseling & AA/NA:	38.5%
Average 12-step meetings per week:	3.4
Members employed:	83.2%
Member average monthly earnings:	\$2,145
Average education level:	12.1 yrs.
Veterans living in Oxford House:	12%
The average age of members:	38.1 yrs.

*Data collected from state surveys in 2021
The number of states surveyed: 30
Number of members participated: 15,055

The Blueprint for Success



Each Oxford House is autonomous. Members govern themselves through participatory democracy, electing House officers (with term limits), holding regular House meetings, and following disciplined parliamentary procedures. Members work and pay their rent and household expenses. There are no time limits on residency, so members can stay long enough to build comfortable, continuous sobriety.

The system encourages the development of leadership skills and self-efficacy. More than 80 percent of Oxford House members remain substance-free for the long term, even though many come from backgrounds that have included lengthy alcohol and drug use, periods of homelessness, and incarceration. Slowly but surely, members can learn or relearn values and responsible behavior.

Evidence-based research has demonstrated that the Oxford House program works. Oxford House, Inc. and the members of Oxford Houses value transparency and welcome research. Supported by grants from NIAAA and NIDA for the study of recovery, DePaul University in Chicago and other academic researchers have found remarkable recovery success directly related to Oxford House living.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Oxford House™?

A. Oxford House™ is supportive self-help housing for individuals recovering from substance use disorder. Each House is chartered by Oxford House, Inc., the non-profit umbrella organization. Each House follows a standardized system of operations that has developed since the first House opened in 1975.

Q. How do Oxford Houses get started?

A. The Central Office, when funding is available, can help a new house get started by providing on-site outreach workers who offer technical support by opening houses and training members.

Q. How much does it cost to open Oxford Houses in my area?

A. In places where funding exists through grants and state contracts, the average cost is less than \$120,000 per year. The money is used to pay for a full-time outreach worker to open three houses per year, which includes: finding a suitable place to rent, furnishing the House, networking in the community to educate stakeholders, training new members on the system of operations, and providing ongoing technical support. Contact the Central Office for more details.

Q. How does a group get a charter for a house?

A. Oxford House, Inc. (OHI) provides a charter application that can be filled out and sent to the Central Office for review. Contact us to find out more.