

**National Coalition  
of Recovery  
Advocacy  
Organizations**  
(Partial List)

February 17, 2021



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (CA)  
Speaker of The House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer (NY)  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate



The Honorable Kevin McCarthy (CA)  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell (KY)  
Senate Republican Leader  
United States Senate



The Honorable Steny Hoyer (MD)  
House Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray (WA),  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate



The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ)  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Burr (NC),  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate



The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives



CC:  
Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attn: SAMHSA-0930-AA22  
5600 Fishers Lane,  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Regina LaBelle, Acting Director  
White House  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
1800 G St NW,  
Washington, DC 20006

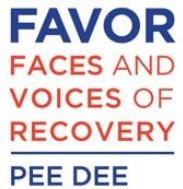


Dear Members of Congress:

We are a coalition of statewide and local Recovery Community Organizations (RCO)<sup>1</sup> and recovery community leaders writing to you to seek your support to establish a dedicated Center for Addiction Recovery at The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Similar to the Congressionally Authorized Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, a dedicated programmatic focus on recovery supports is

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in section 547(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-2(a)), recovery community organizations (RCOs) are independent nonprofit organization that (1) mobilizes resources within and outside of the recovery community, which may include through a peer support network, to increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery from substance use disorders; and (2) is wholly or principally governed by people in recovery for substance use disorders who reflect the community served.



essential to equitably serve our diverse communities across all 50 states and territories. While there have been limited discretionary funding opportunities in the past, our work, which is vital for the development and strengthening of statewide and local recovery capital, has never been funded in a stable and consistent manner.

The COVID-19 pandemic is further exacerbating our national addiction epidemic. As physical distancing guidelines caused social and emotional isolation, our networks quickly adapted to provide virtual support and outreach, promoting health and community *without any waiting lists*. As unemployment rose, our networks provided workforce development, connected individuals to social support and education around PPP loans. As residential treatment capacity decreased and more individuals became unstably housed, our networks of recovery housing provided people with safe living environments. The kinds of activities that statewide and local RCOs engage in to foster hope, connection and purpose across our diverse communities has become even more vital given the twin public health emergencies facing America: COVID and substance use epidemics.

Time and time again, Congress has provided support directly to community-based organizations for Mental Health services. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, \$600 million in dedicated new funds were allocated to SAMHSA to directly distribute to local Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. Additionally, the legislation allows for SAMHSA to administer 50% of the new emergency funding in the Mental Health Block Grant directly to eligible community-based organizations. Some of this funding has already been posted for RFP and will reach the intended use within months, not years. In contrast, the continued expansion of funding through the State Opioid Response and Substance Abuse Block Grants (SABG), which is welcomed and very much needed, has often been hung up in States' procurement processes and has not reached its intended use. This issue was documented by the Government Accountability Office in reports published in [March](#) and [December](#) 2020. The newly proposed House Budget Reconciliation package includes another \$1.75 billion increase in the SABG for states in Section 3052, but seemingly because Single-State Authority's (SSAs) have not be able to distribute large increases in new funds for intended use and in a timely manner, Congress is allowing them *until September of 2025 to procure funding intended for emergency relief*. This is unacceptable, especially given that SAMHSA has the ability to directly distribute funds to eligible community-based organizations.

Block grants require states to have consumer advisory committees, yet without supported statewide recovery community networks ensuring leadership, advisory structures become rife with tokenism. Funding, intended to support our efforts when passed through the SSA system more often than not go to large foundations, long-standing clinically focused providers, and academic institutions well connected and well poised to secure these funds yet with little or no insight into local recovery needs of communities.

The woefully under-resourced statewide and local recovery community organizations across this country stand ready now to respond urgently to needs of local communities and we believe allowing SAMHSA to provide a substantial dedicated grant program through a new Center for Addiction Recovery or a directly from the proposed emergency increase in SABG funding will realize far quicker and sustained results than waiting until 2025 for SSAs to procure these new funds.



We deeply appreciate your focus on these critically important matters. Please help us deliver this legacy of strong, stable funding to statewide and local recovery community organizations to save lives immediately and enhance recovery capital in communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Hampton, Founder,  
The Voices Project

Cheryle Pacapelli, Director of Peer  
Recovery Supports, Harbor Care (NH)

Sean O'Donnell, Director of  
Communications, Foundation for  
Recovery

Daisy Pierce, Executive Director  
Navigating Recovery of the Lakes  
Region (NH)

William Stauffer, Executive Director,  
Pennsylvania Recovery Organization  
Alliance (PRO-A)

Samuel Lake, Executive Director  
Keene Serenity Center (NH)

Janice Spinney, Executive Director  
MWV Supports Recovery Coalition  
(NH)

Phillip Valentine, Executive Director,  
Connecticut Community for Addiction  
Recovery (CCAR)

Keith Howard, Executive Director,  
Hope for New Hampshire Recovery



Mary Drew, CEO, Reality Check (NH)



Richard Jones, Chairman  
FAVOR South Carolina



Stephan Burdette, Executive Director, Plymouth  
Area Recovery Connection (NH)



Frank McIntyre, Board Chair  
FAVOR Pee Dee, Inc. (SC)



Mike Marshall, Executive Director  
Oregon Recovers



Beth Fisher Sanders, CEO  
HOPE Recovery (GA and NC)



Jessica Parnell, Executive Director, Revive  
Recovery Resource Center (NH)



Isaac Waters, Executive Director  
FAVOR Lowcountry (SC)



Patrick Brown, Executive Director  
Thriving United (TX)



Johnny Hulin, Executive Director  
Willie Carter Outreach Center (TX)



Steven Farnsworth, Executive Director  
Florida Association of Recovery Residences

Bobby Brazell, Executive Director  
Midlands Recovery Center (SC)



Robert Rice, Executive Director  
FAVOR Piedmont (SC)



Michelle J. Lennon, Executive Director  
Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center  
(NH)



Donna Marston, Parent Support  
Consultant/CRSW, Donna 4 Support (NH)




George Morris, Executive Director  
Jump Start Recovery Center



Mike Maddox, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Alliance for Recovery Residences



Pete Nielsen, CEO, California Consortium of  
Addiction Programs and Professionals



Wendy Jones, Executive Director  
Minnesota Recovery Connection



Patty McCarthy, CEO  
Faces & Voices of Recovery



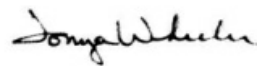
Zachary Talbott, President & Chairman National  
Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery  
(NAMA Recovery)



Danielle Tarino, President & CEO  
Young People in Recovery



Darrin Acker, Executive Director  
Communities for Recovery (TX)



Tonya Wheeler, Executive Director  
Advocates for Recovery Colorado



Tiffany Hall, Executive Director  
Recover Alaska

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' with a large, stylized flourish.

Jack Brown, Executive Director  
PEER 2 PEER WHOLE WELLNESS (TX)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RA' with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Ashford, Executive Director of Unity  
Recovery (PA) & CEO of RecoveryLink