
Recovery Housing Certification Process

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services facilitates the certification process for Recovery Residences in Iowa under the standards recognized by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). These standards create a minimum requirement for recovery housing organizations seeking public grant funds to support individuals with financial need as they navigate recovery from substance use disorders.

Please note the steps below for agencies interested in certification.

Step 1 – If your agency is interested in becoming a NARR-certified recovery residence in Iowa or have questions about recovery housing, contact Recovery Housing at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services at recoveryhousing@hhs.iowa.gov. Your agency will receive guidance on the process and also be given access to training modules developed by NARR for recovery housing providers.

Step 2 – After initial contact with Iowa HHS, the agency will be asked to complete the Iowa HHS assessment and begin the processes to develop and document your agency policies and procedures in accordance with NARR standards. Once your agency meets all requirements of the assessment, Iowa HHS will connect your agency with a certification expert for the next step of the process. During this time, it is also recommended to access and begin completing the NARR training modules provided to you.

Step 3 – You will be contacted by a certification expert to guide you through the process of certification, including a document review, on-site visit and inspection of the property. All application and certification fees will be paid by through grant funding by Iowa HHS.