



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 7, 2023**

**House Bill 681
Recovery Residence Grant Program – Establishment
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 681 with amendments. Housing is a basic human need. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Recovery housing is an intervention that is specifically designed to address the recovering person’s need for a safe and healthy living environment while supplying the requisite recovery and peer supports.”

It is because Maryland recognized the crucial role housing plays in people’s lives, the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration adopted recovery residence standards established by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). Maryland utilizes their matrix of four levels of support to certify recovery residences. This bill will, in part, create a fund for recovery residences certified at Level II to assist with operating costs.

As the bill specifies that to be eligible to apply for funds, a recovery residence must be certified at Level II. The requirements that follow in the bill go beyond what the NARR standards require and create a level that does not exist in within these levels that Maryland has adopted. NCADD-Maryland also does not believe some of those eligibility requirements are appropriate for publicly funded recovery residences. We therefore ask that the eligibility requirements beyond the Level II certification be deleted.

Amendment No. 1

On page 2, strike lines 7 through 27 in their entirety.

With this amendment, we urge a favorable report. NCADD-Maryland stands ready to work with the Department on ensuring recovery residences and all recovery support services are effective and appropriately funded.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.