

Ohio Recovery Housing Financial Landscape and Economic Impact

Prepared by Fletcher Group Research Team in Collaboration with Ohio Recovery Housing
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Study Purpose and Methods

Study was designed to inform financial planning and expansion efforts in Ohio by assessing

- Financial size of recovery residences
- Revenue sources
- Operating expenditures
- Financial resiliency
- Barrier to continued operation

Survey was disseminated via emailed invitations from ORH with data collection occurring between February and April 2024.

- Houses received \$20 Amazon Gift Card and Customized Fletcher Group Economic Impact Report

Characteristics of recovery residences surveyed, Ohio,
2024, (N = 288)

NARR Certification Level	Count (%)
Level 1	40 (14)
Level 2	172 (60)
Level 3	47 (16)
Level 4	0 (0)
Not ORH Certified	22 (8)
Unknown/Missing	7 (4)
Geographic Location	Count (%)
Rural	85 (30)
Urban	106 (37)
Suburban	82 (29)
Missing	15 (5)
Residence Ownership	Count (%)
Rent	93 (32)
Own	187 (65)
Missing	8 (3)

Sample Overview

Sampling pool included all ORH certified organizations (N = 130).

- 81 organizations representing 288 residences responded
- 62% response rate

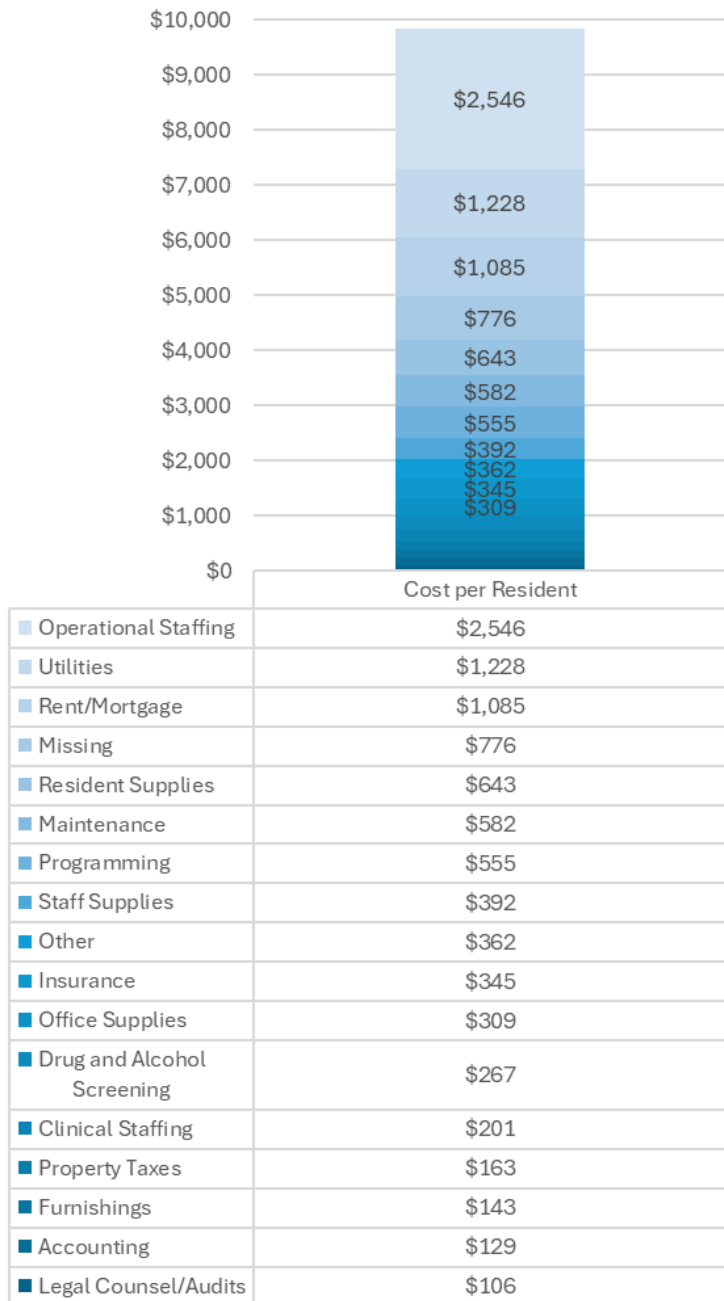
Key organizational characteristics:

1. 65% operate multiple residences
2. 96% support MAT
3. 58% turn away residents due to lack of capacity

Sample Overview

Resident populations served by recovery housing organizations in Ohio, 2024 (N = 81)

Populations Served	Count (%)
Men	56 (69)
Women	58 (72)
Adults with Children	19 (23)
Genderqueer	22 (27)
Gender fluid	19 (23)
Non-binary	20 (25)
Questioning or Unsure	20 (25)
Transgender	20 (25)
Trans men	17 (21)
Trans women	20 (25)
Other	6 (7)
Special Populations Served	Count (%)
Indigenous	1 (1)
Pregnant	13 (16)
Parenting	22 (27)
Youth	0 (0)
Non-English Speakers	2 (2)
Individuals with Disabilities	8 (10)
Veterans	10 (12)
LGBTQIA+	16 (20)
Individuals with a History of Homelessness	55 (68)
Individuals with Criminal Justice Involvement	65 (80)
Individuals Diagnosed with a Mental Health Condition	62 (77)



Annual Operating Costs

Median annual operating cost: \$140,000

- Ranged from \$10,000 to \$2.4 million

Median amount spent per resident served annually: \$9,800

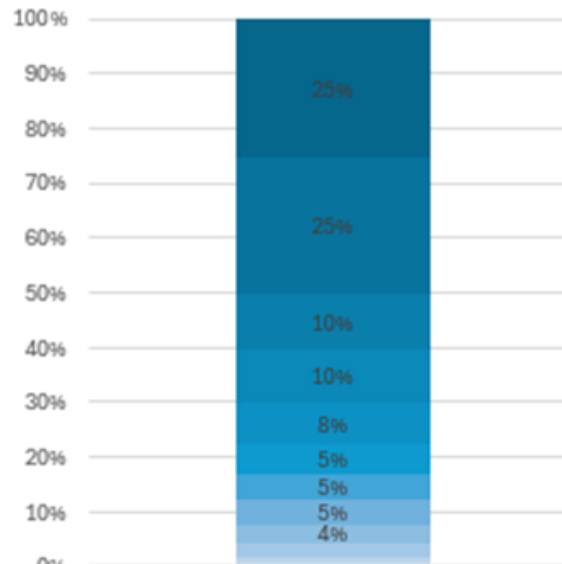
- Per resident cost for orgs that operated multiple residences: \$9,400
- Per resident cost for orgs that operated one residence: \$11,300

Expenditure



	Percent
Operational Staffing	26%
Utilities	12%
Rent/Mortgage	11%
Missing	8%
Resident Supplies	7%
Maintenance	6%
Programming	6%
Staff Supplies	4%
Other	4%
Insurance	4%
Office Supplies	3%
Drug and Alcohol Screening	3%
Clinical Staffing	2%
Property Taxes	2%
Furnishings	1%
Accounting	1%
Legal Counsel/Audits	1%

Revenue



	Percent
Health Authority	25%
Resident Fees	25%
Local Grants	10%
State Grants	10%
Federal Grants	8%
Medicaid	5%
Foundations/Corporations	5%
Donations	5%
Treatment Providers	4%
Other	3%
Department of Corrections	1%
Housing Assistance	1%

Revenue Sources and Expenditures

Figure. Percent of annual revenue from different sources and percent of annual expenditures associated with different categories reported by Ohio recovery residence operators, 2024, (N = 67)

Ranking of challenges to continued operation with 1 representing the most significant barrier and 8 representing the least significant challenge (N = 66).



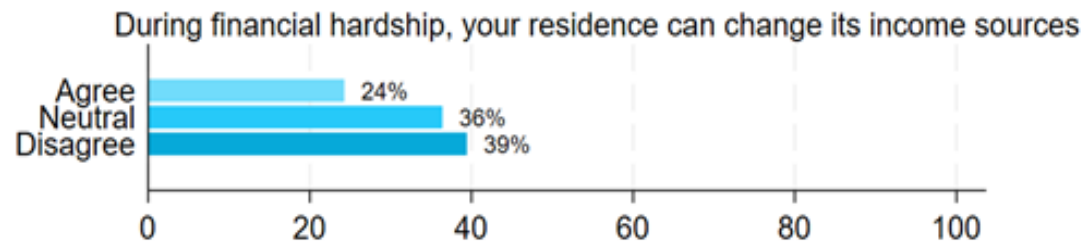
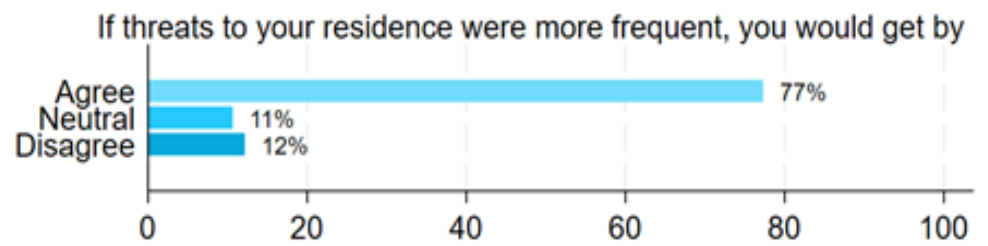
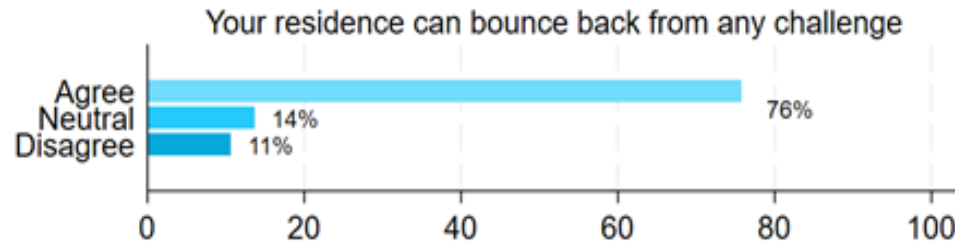
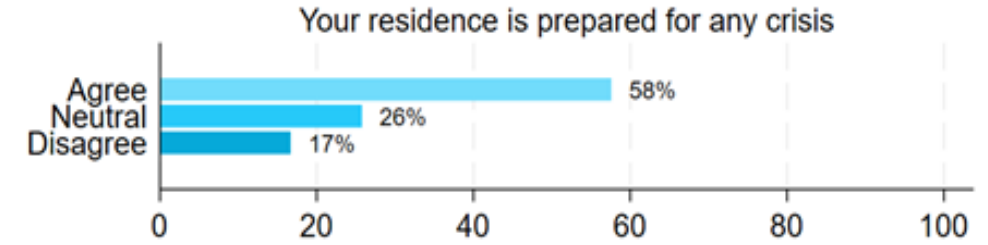
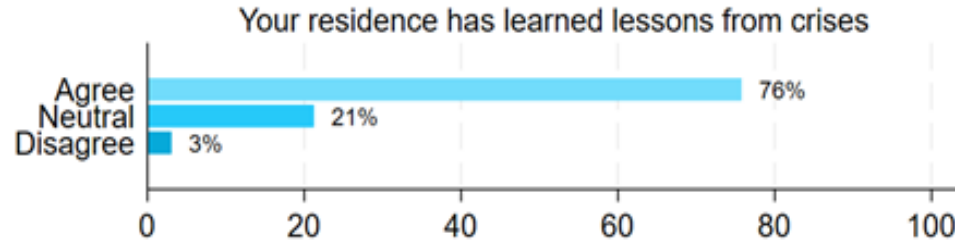
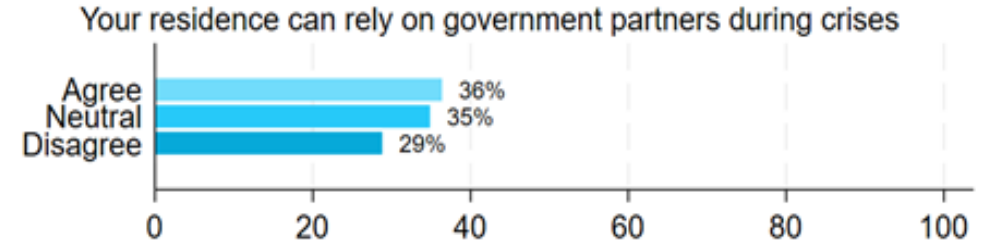
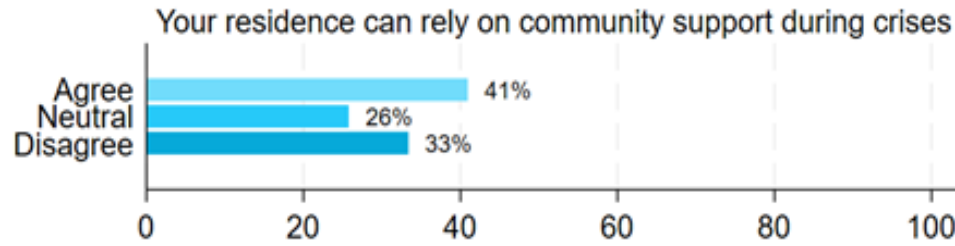
Financial Resiliency

- 62% of organizations indicated “financial resources” were the most significant barrier their program faced.
- On a scale from 1 to 10, programs ranked their financial resilience at **6.2 on average**.
- 52% of recovery housing programs surveyed indicated they received 75% or more of their revenue from one source

Financial Resiliency

Highlights:

1. Perceived lack of community support and government partner support
2. Strong perception of resilience and ability to learn from experience



Barriers related to Grants

- Programs that had received grants of any kind (N = 29) reported an average of **11 hours spent per month** finding and applying for grants.

- 59% of programs indicated that it was somewhat or extremely difficult to find grants
- 31% indicated it was somewhat or extremely difficult to apply for grants.

- Specific barriers related to grants included:

1. Grants are limited to projects and don't include operations
2. The grant process is difficult to navigate
3. Limited opportunities for new providers.

"Most grants do not cover operational costs for recovery housing"

"Because I'm not familiar with that area and we can't afford to hire someone to write the grants for us"

"we are relatively new housing and grantors want 3-year track records"

Recovery Housing Financial Needs

Operators noted need for more funding opportunities in general

- *“Our current funding streams cover the bare minimum. We would be able to provide an array of additional services if there were more funding streams available and consistent renewals”*

Operators having funding needs specifically related to rental assistance, food, and resident supplies.

- *“more funding opportunities are needed for rental assistance food and home improvements. financial assistance is needed for clothing and toiletries”*

Operators noted need for both capital funding and operational funding.

- *“One of the most significant issues we continue to deal with is the lack of being able to access programs like tax credits for capital dollars”*
- *“We need more funding for operational costs. Most grants do not look at the house itself as being a significant part of recovery programs”*

Operators also have difficulties with short-term grants.

- *“Every year we are on edge about the funding being cut, or redirected to other areas. At the end of each funding period it is a very stressful time. Grant writers are very expensive”*

Economic Impact of Certified Ohio Recovery Housing Organizations

<i>Variable</i>	Output
<i>Total Residents Served</i>	151,065
<i>Total Benefits</i>	\$37,515,988,738
<i>Total Costs</i>	\$625,555,252
<i>Net Benefits</i>	\$36,890,433,485
<i>Return on Investment</i>	\$58.97

Using data from the financial landscape study, we use the Fletcher Group Economic Calculator to calculate the **total economic impact** of ORH certified organizations over **15 years**.

- Annual amount spent on operating costs = \$51,383,687
- Total amount spent on start up costs = \$34,591,440
- Number of residents served annually = 10,071

Policy Considerations - Funding

1. Increase the funding available to recovery housing organizations including funding for capital expenditures, initial start-up expenses, and programmatic operating expenditures.
2. Develop long-term (more than one year), sustainable funding opportunities for certified recovery residences.
3. Provide education and training to facilitate easier access to state grants and understanding of the grant application process; potentially a designated grant specialists at the state supporting recovery providers.
4. Develop an individual level voucher program for recovery housing residents such that funding support follows residents throughout their engagement in recovery support services and can be transferable between certified recovery housing residences.



Additional Policy Considerations

1. Increase the capacity of certified recovery residences that can provide culturally appropriate services to special populations, including pregnant and parenting people, families, veterans, individuals who speak English as a second language, and people with disabilities.
2. Cultivate new relationships and reinforce current relationships among recovery housing organizations and other recovery support providers along the SUD continuum of care with a specific focus on breaking down barriers to sustainable and meaningful partnerships.
3. Provide training and resources to recovery housing organizations to encourage community partnerships, to reduce stigma, and increase community support.
4. Conduct another assessment of the recovery housing financial landscape study in the future that includes additional financial incentives to program operators to increase study engagement.



Thank you!

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