



# A Legislator's Guide to Recovery Housing

**National Conference of State Legislatures  
Opioid Policy Fellows, June 2022**



2016:

U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health was published, describing the nature of addiction, treatment, and recovery based on 50 years of research and policy; *firmly established that addiction is a chronic, rather than an acute, condition.*

# FACING ADDICTION IN AMERICA

*The Surgeon General's Report on  
Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*

**A Vision  
for the  
Future**

#FacingAddiction



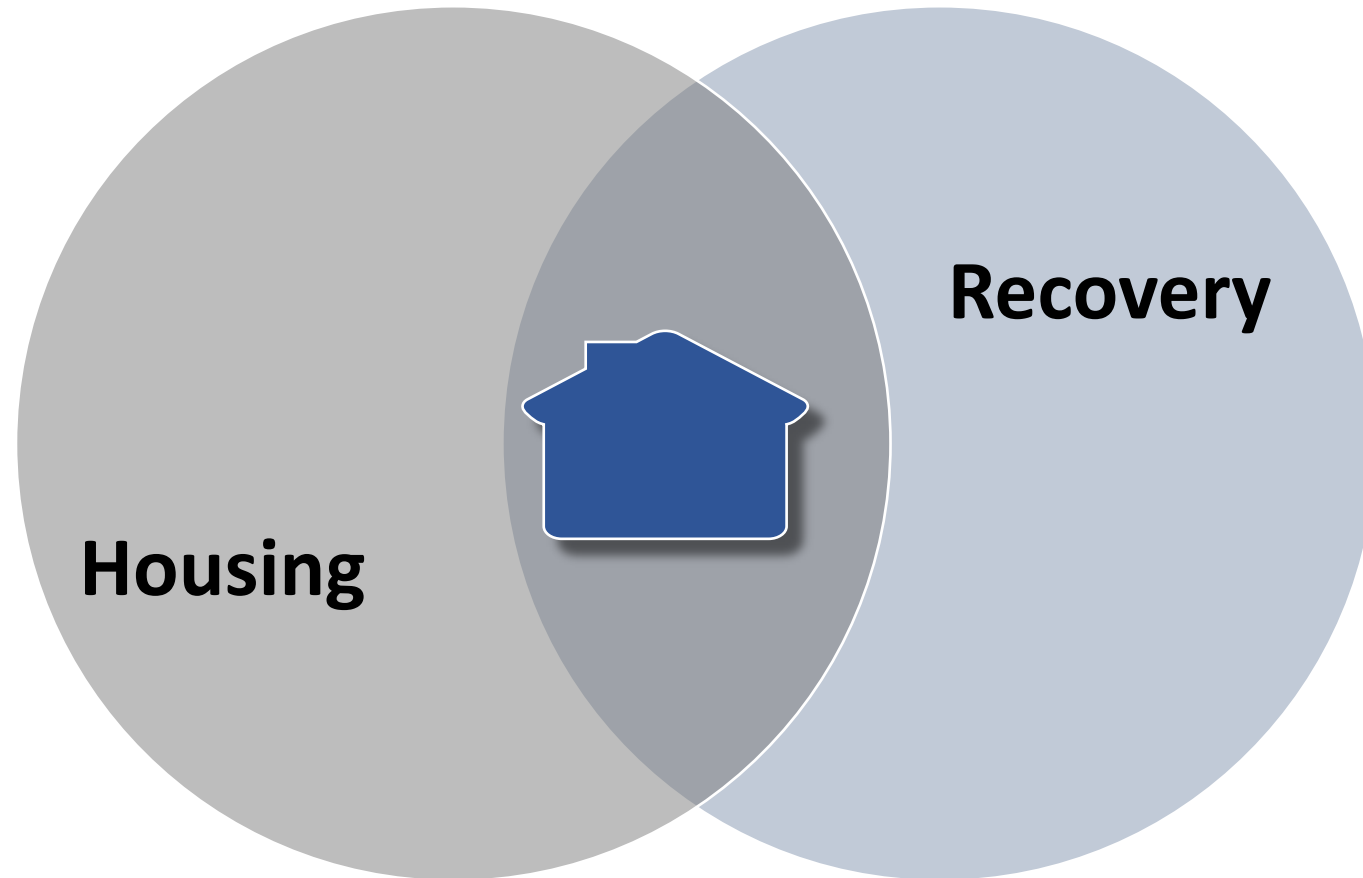
**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# Numerous Long-term Recovery Support Services Now Exist...



# Recovery housing; recovery residences

*At the intersection of housing and recovery*





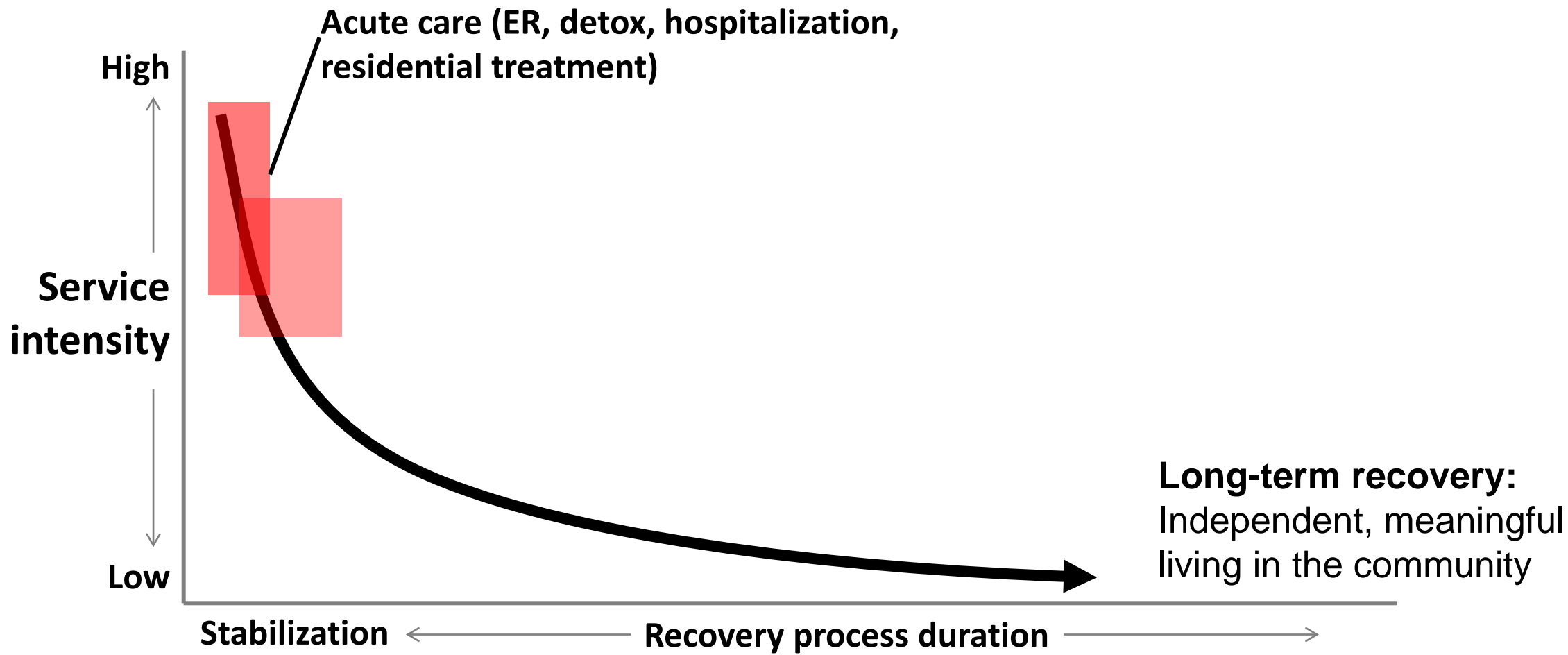
**Housing**

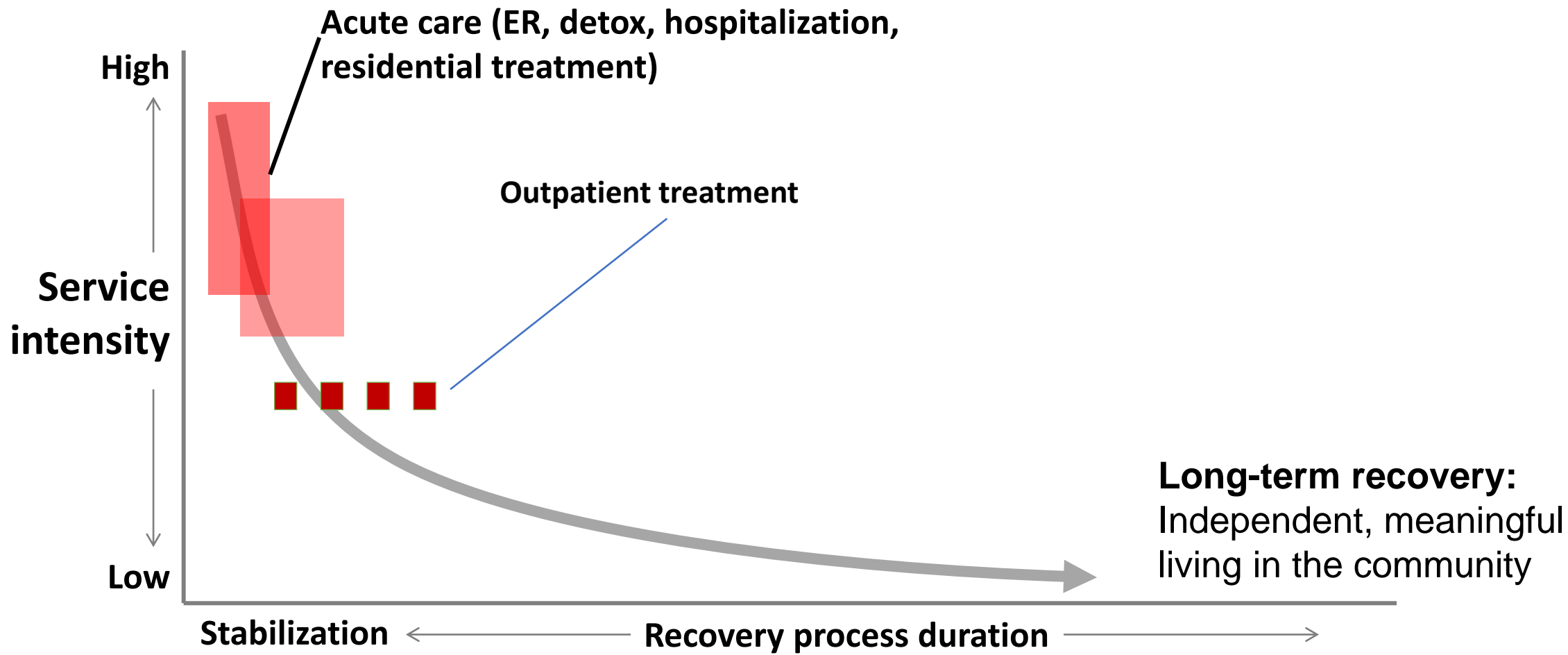
**Individuals with substance use disorders**

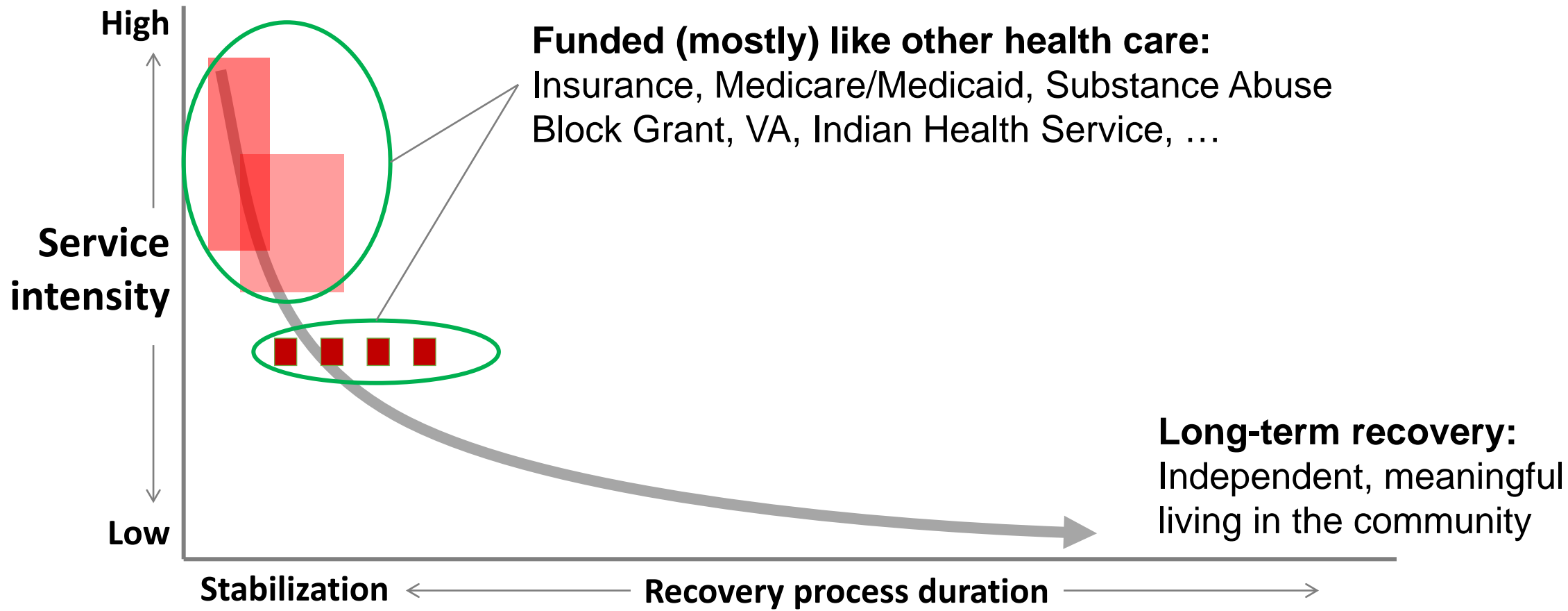
**Abstinence-based, inclusive of MAT**

**Peer recovery support**

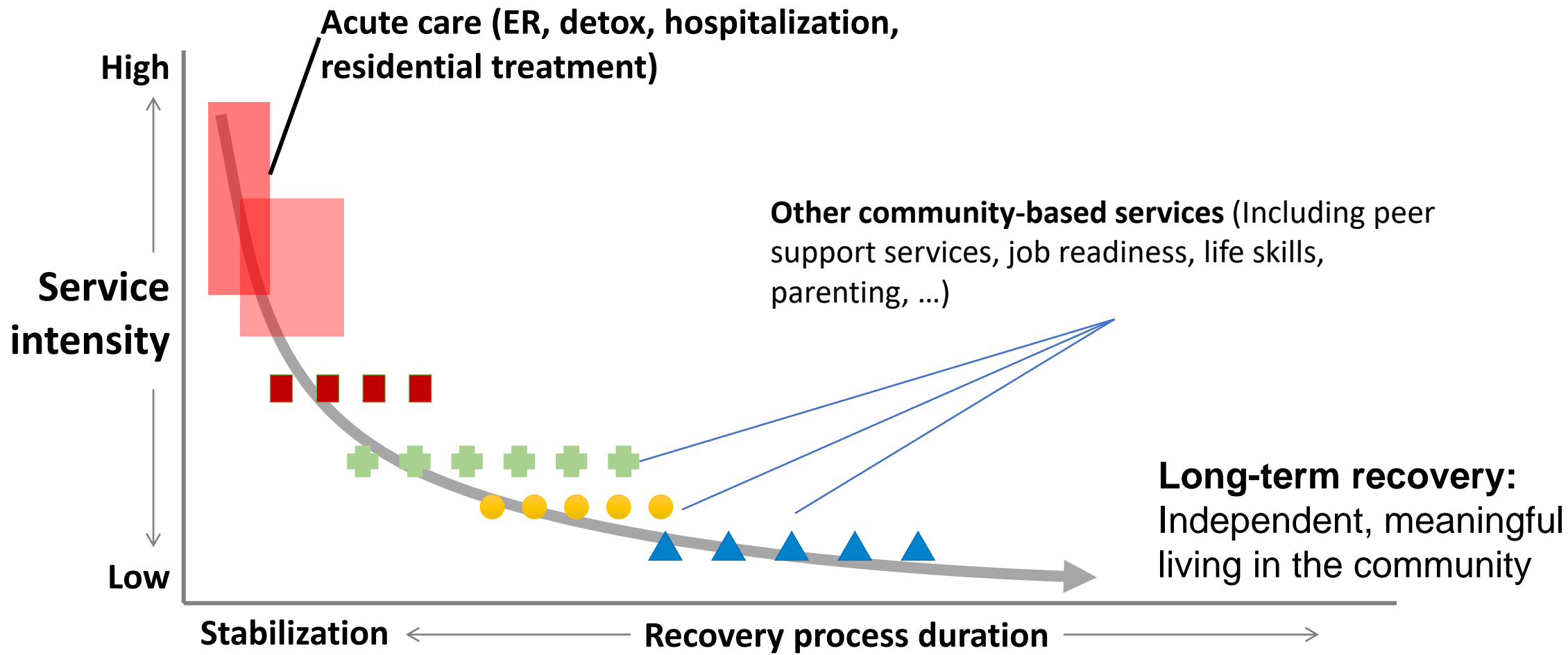
**Operates as a family-like community**

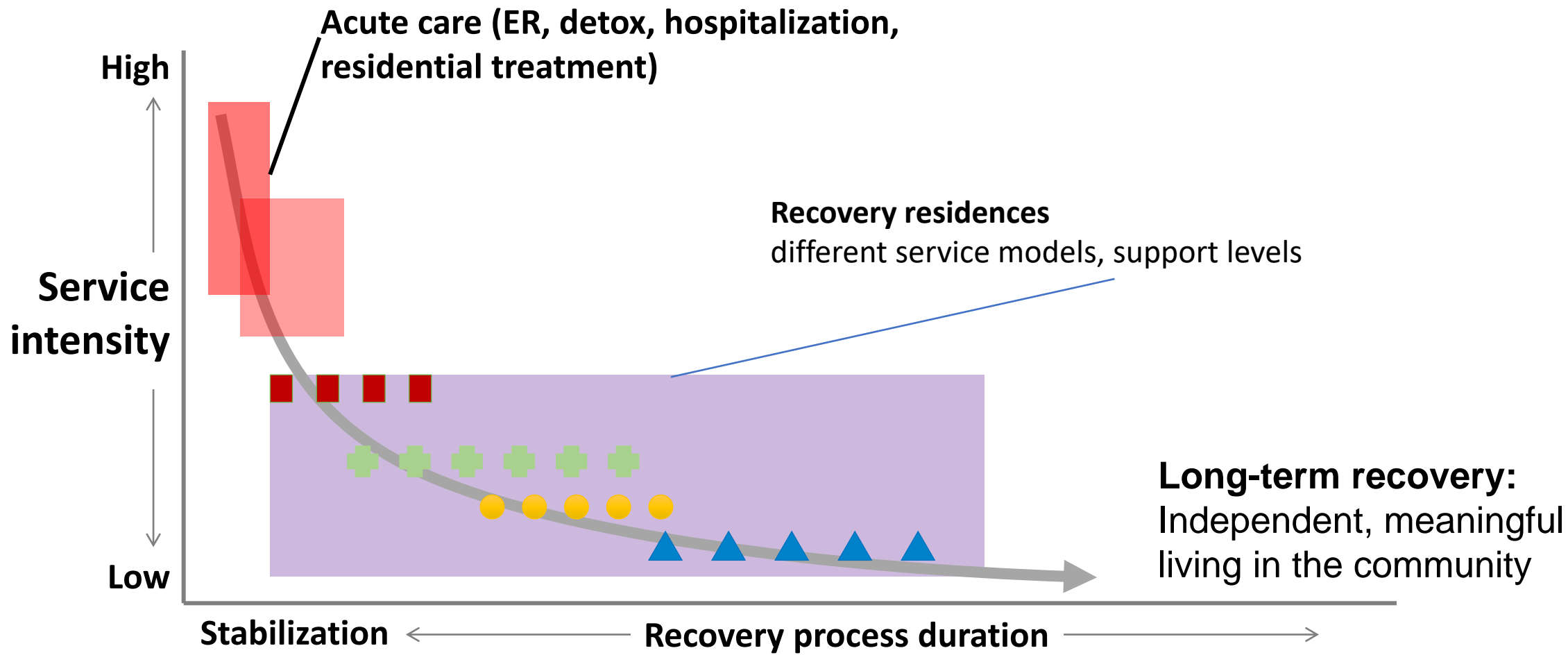


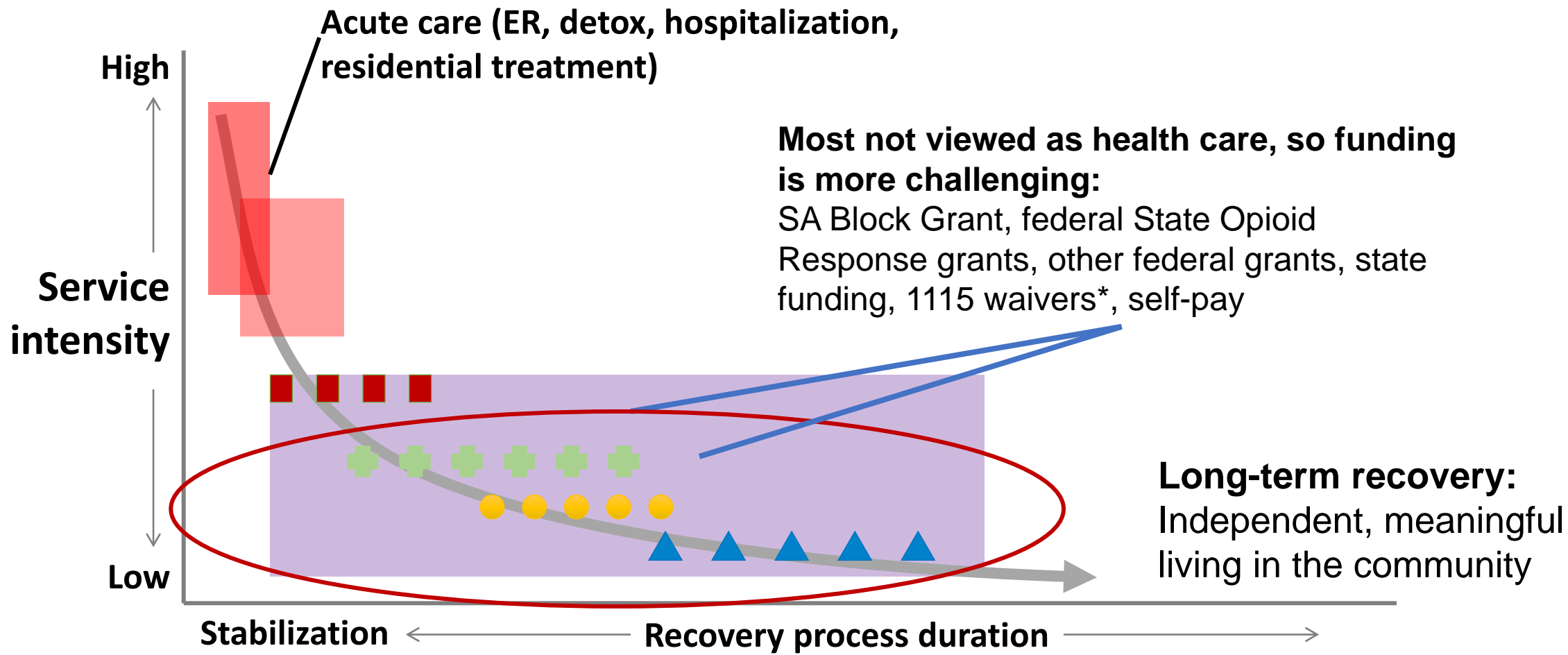




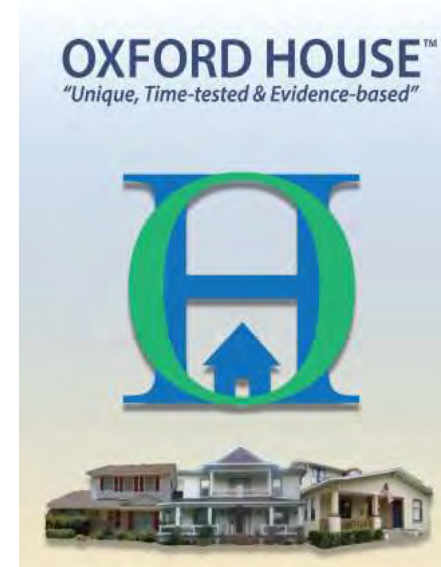








# National standards and support systems



# Oxford House at a glance

- Founded in 1975 by individuals in recovery
- Chartering process, ethics codes
- Model is a pure peer-run recovery environment
- About 3,300 Oxford Houses nationally
- Contracts with several state governments
- External staff supports autonomous homes
- Resident training and resources

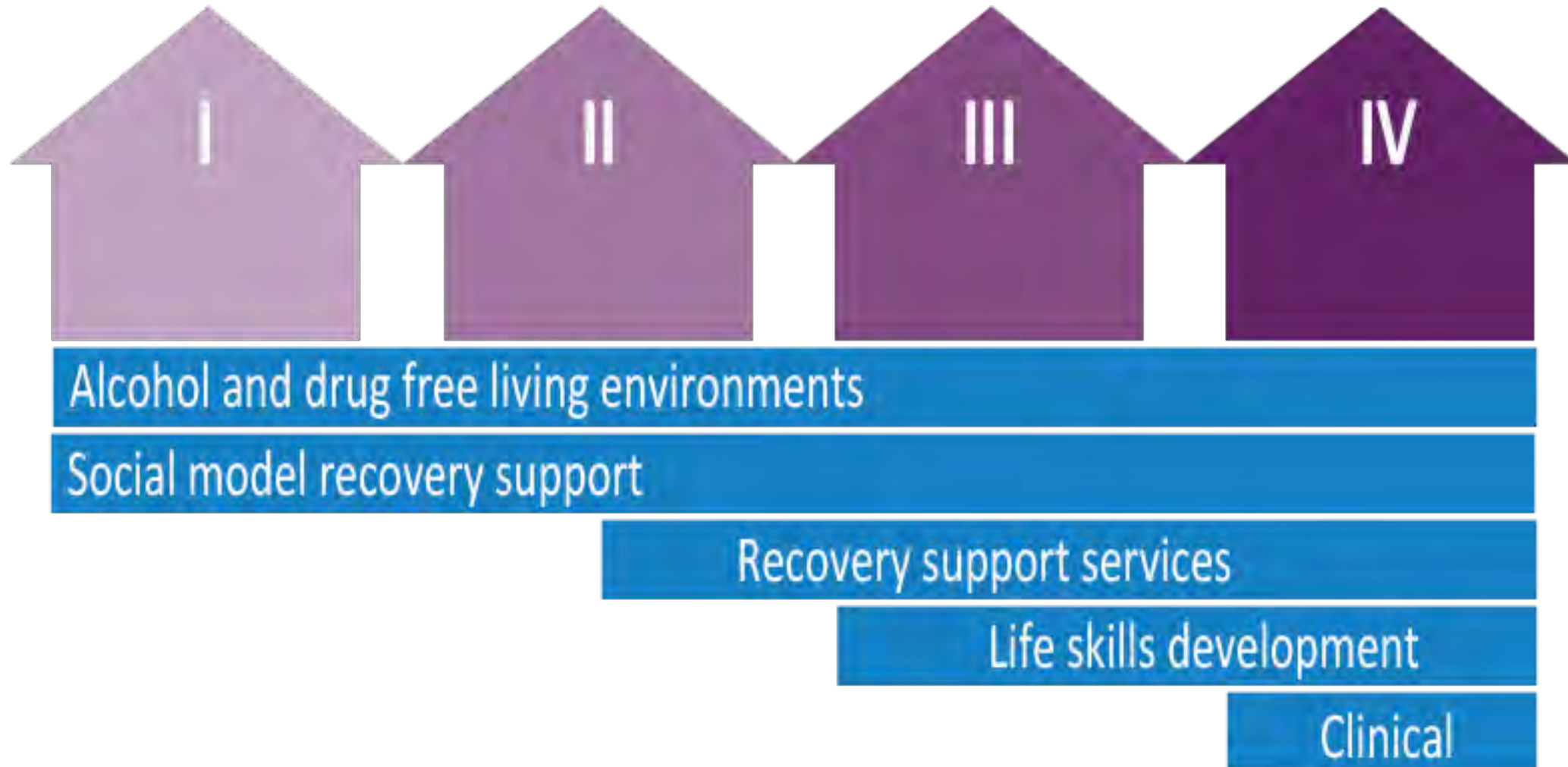


# NARR at a glance



- Founded in 2011 by leading regional recovery housing experts, organizations; based on decades of best practices developed nationally
- National Standard and Code of Ethics
- Covers the full spectrum of recovery housing
- Operating model for statewide recovery housing support systems
- Affiliate relationships in 31 states, over 4,000 residences nationally
- Training, technical assistance; working relationships with gov't agencies
- Certification process implemented by state affiliate organizations

# Classification: Levels of recovery support



# Staffing models



**Purely resident-governed, no in-home staff**

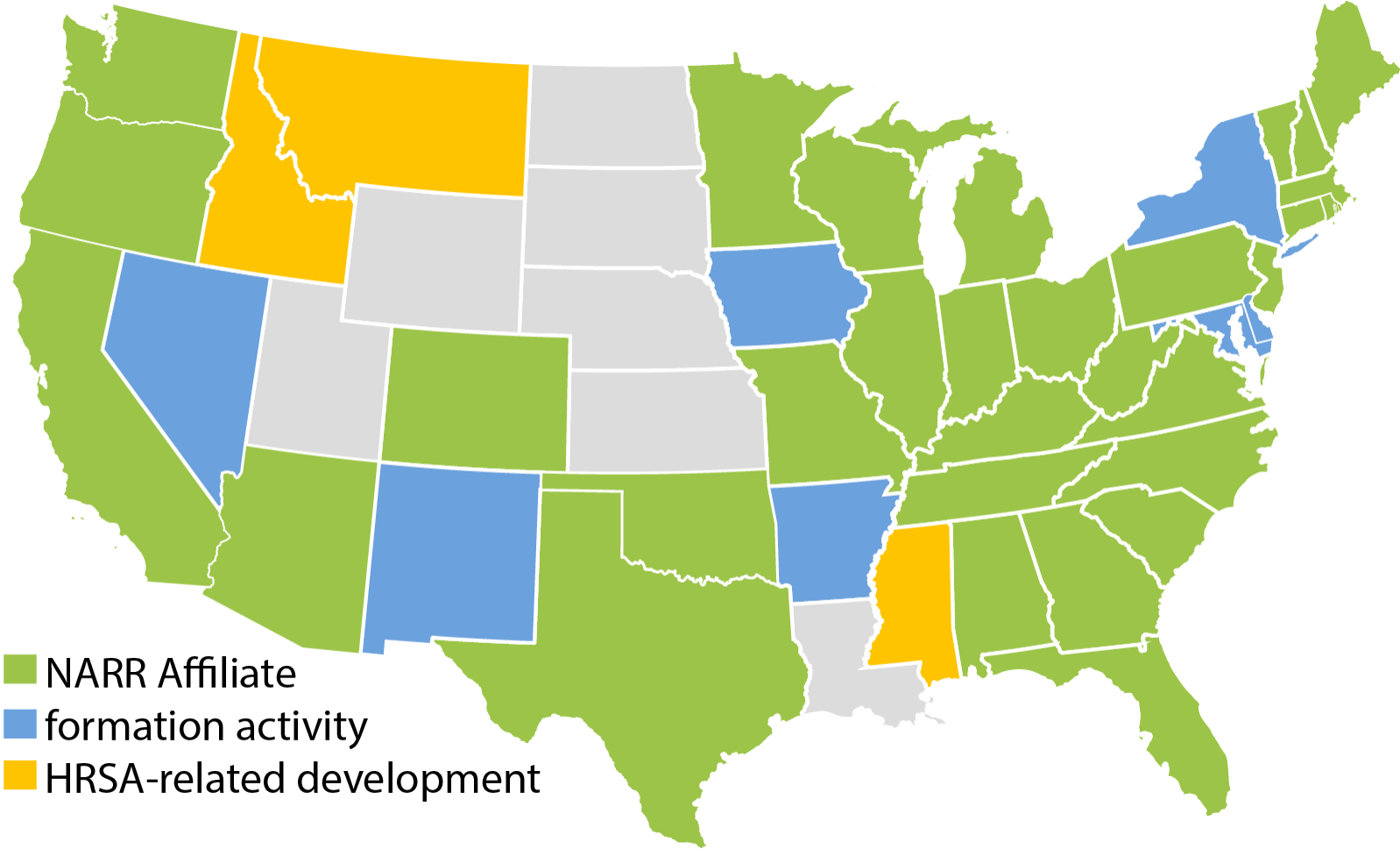
**Operator oversight, in-home staff are mostly peers**

**Mix of peer and paid staff, service delivery by staff with appropriate credentials**

**Mix of peer and paid staff, includes clinical services and staffing**



# NARR network today

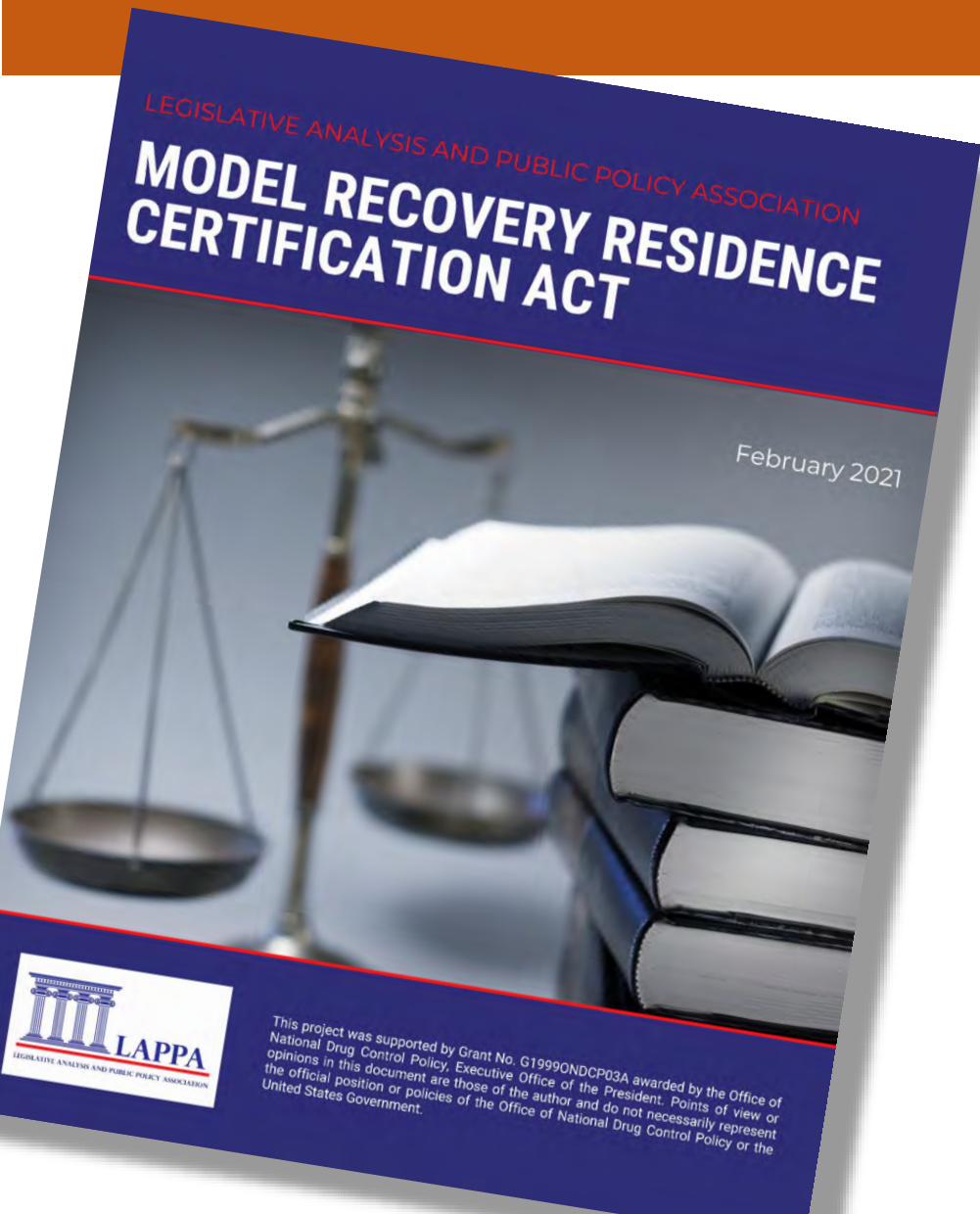


**31 Affiliate organizations, eight additional interested states**

# Regulation

- NARR Level 4 residences offer clinical services so usually licensed under state addiction treatment laws
- NARR Levels 1 – 3, and Oxford Houses:
  - ***Considered housing for a protected class***, so subject to federal fair housing protections.
  - ***Voluntary certification, state collaboration*** are the preferred methods.
- Fair housing laws applicable at state and local levels, and include zoning, fire codes, other targeted regulations

# Model state law



- Developed in 2021, funded by White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Experts from all aspects of regulation, operation
- Covers oversight, quality assurance, consumer protection.
- Highlights:
  1. Definition of recovery residence
  2. Creation of a certification program
  3. Priorities for referrals, funding for providers
  4. Targeting abusive practices
  5. State case studies

# Recovery housing policy guide

## Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing



- A joint effort between National Council and NARR with input from other stakeholders.
- Strategies, tools, and policy language that support the infrastructure of recovery housing, quality operating standards, and protections for people in recovery.
- Highlights:
  1. Protecting recovery housing
  2. Ideal regulatory system
  3. Supporting recovery housing in practice
  4. Sample of state implementation practices



# Recommendations: what's next?

## Demonstrating the Value of Recovery Housing: *Technical Expert Panel Findings*



- Meeting of national thought leaders, stakeholders: federal and state agencies, DAs, national organizations
- Assessment of current challenges, needs
- Recommendations to increase the availability of quality recovery housing nationally
- Highlights:
  1. Current funding deficiencies
  2. State adoption of national standards
  3. Research on recovery outcomes
  4. Communication to increase access

# Financing and state support

## ***Different funding needs, different sources:***

- ***Access to services*** for individuals in early recovery
- ***System operation***, certification, training, technical assistance
- ***Capacity expansion, renovation:***
  - Access to capital for system expansion
  - Access to capital for property development, home renovation

***For all, focus on marginalized and under-served populations, rural communities***

# Financing: access to housing and services

- SAMHSA Block Grants: SAPT, MHBG
- State Opioid Response supplementary funding
- Criminal justice programs through US Department of Justice
- Opioid litigation settlement funds
- Medicaid\*: inclusion in state plans under 1115 waivers
- Veterans funding (VASH, other)
- Targeted homeless services funds
- Direct state, county appropriations

\* CMS funds can't be used for the housing itself

# Financing: system development and operation

- State Opioid Response supplementary funding
- Opioid litigation settlement funds
- SAPT Block Grant
- Opioid litigation settlement funds
- Other federal grants available to state agencies
- Direct state allocations (particularly for startup costs)
- Private grants
- Provider service, certification fees



# Financing: capital funding

- HUD Recovery Housing Program (selected states)
- HUD LIHTC (low-income housing tax credits)
- Federal grants available to state agencies, housing authorities
- Direct state allocations (particularly for startup costs)
- “Gap” funding:
  - Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) funds
  - State and Federal Housing Trust Funds
  - Other grants (EDA, CDBG, etc.)
- Elimination of exclusions on current funding streams
- Others\*

# New developments

- **National Drug Control Strategy**
  - Created an Office of Recovery
  - Includes proposed 1.8x increase in basic SUD block grant (SAPT)
  - Minimum 10% spend on recovery support services
  - Recovery housing specifically mentioned
- **Excellence in Recovery Housing Act (part of HR 7666)**
  - Interagency working group
  - Recovery housing implementation best practices for states
  - Money for states to implement recommended support systems
  - Research focus – outcomes and effectiveness
- **American Society of Addiction Medicine** adding recovery housing to continuum of care (in progress)

# For more information



569 Selby Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(888) 877-4236  
[narronline.org](http://narronline.org)  
[info@narronline.org](mailto:info@narronline.org)

***Dave Sheridan***  
NARR Executive Director  
*dave.sheridan@narronline.org*

# References

- [Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing \(2018\)](#)
- [Guide to Medication Assisted Treatment \(2018\)](#)
- NARR [recovery residence standards](#), [code of ethics](#)
- [DOJ/HUD joint statement on fair housing](#)
- [Model Patient Protection and Treatment Ethics Act](#)
- [Model Recovery Residence Certification Act](#)
- [Technical Expert Panel Findings \(2021\)](#)

# Discussion