

How to Get a Government Grant for a Halfway House

Halfway houses, or sober living houses, act as transitional housing for people who are getting back on their feet following major transitions, such as completing a treatment program for addiction or a recent release from prison. For this reason, grants are available through organizations that focus on substance abuse recovery. Here's where to look:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMHSA offers grant funding through three channels: The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the Center for Mental Health Services. If you're operating a sober living home, your business probably qualifies to apply for a grant from SAMHSA, although you have to jump through a few hoops first:

1. Register your business with the Data Universal Numbering System, System for Award Management, eRA Commons and Grants.gov.
2. Find application forms at www.samhsa.gov and submit your application at least 24 hours before the application due date to allow for unforeseen technical problems.
3. Look out for three emails: one confirming receipt of your application, one confirming acceptance of your application, and the third confirming that SAMHSA has received your submission.

Once SAMHSA has received your application, the process is out of your hands. The organization's third-party peer reviewers go over your application and determine whether to award your business a grant. If you're awarded one, SAMHSA collaborates with you to help you use it.

If you open your house to people transitioning from homelessness, your business may qualify for further grants through SAMHSA, as well.

United Way Community Impact Grants

Contact your local United Way to see if they offer a Community Impact Grant. Many chapters do, like Washington DC, Columbus, Nebraska and Northwest Florida. Awarded grants are good for one year, but in some cases, they can be renewed for a second year. You need to be meeting a pressing human need, which a halfway house does, and have a focus on improving lives and making lasting changes, which again, a halfway house also does.

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