



# Recovery Housing Strategic Task Group

Executive Summary of Recommendations  
Fall 2021



# Background

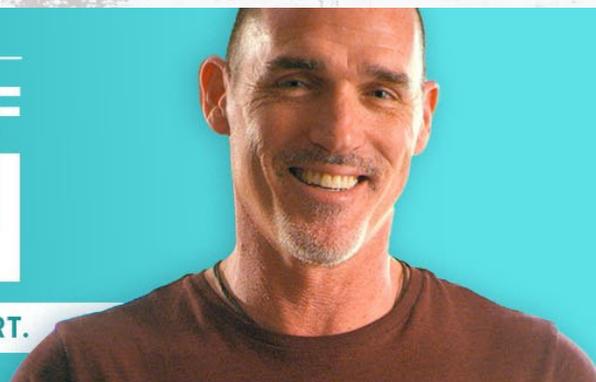
The Roanoke Valley Collective Response to the Opioid and Addiction Crisis (RVCR) was launched in September of 2018, and to date has involved over 300 community members representing 120+ organizations. During this time, the RVCR has met monthly, with the steering committee and workgroups meeting more often. Workgroups representing Prevention, Treatment, Child-Family, Crisis Response, and Recovery have guided the development of a Blueprint for Action, which outlines specific strategic initiatives to address the addiction crisis. Among these work groups, a cross-cutting need for additional recovery housing has been identified as a priority. To more fully understand the need and how to best develop strategies and plans to address this infrastructure gap, the RVCR formulated the Recovery Housing Strategic Task Group, open to the RVCR membership and the Roanoke Valley community.

The task group began its work in May 2021, engaging approximately 25 stakeholders on a monthly basis, and is supported by the Connection to Care Project team led by Virginia Tech. To date, the collective effort has resulted in: 1) a shared definition of recovery housing; 2) gathering of data and background information to recognize the urgency of need for recovery housing; 3) summarizing best practice models for recovery housing; 4) exploration of public and private opportunities to increase the development of recovery housing; and 5) development of initial recommendations to advance the primary objective of linking individuals with addiction to a spectrum of recovery housing within a recovery ecosystem.

This executive summary outlines the recommendations prioritized by the task group over several work sessions and using online polls. Nine key recommendations emerged, as well as action items and potential champions to move the recommendations forward. The full report can be [accessed here](#). For more information about joining the Recovery Housing Strategic Task Group, please contact [rvcollectiveresponse@bradleyfreeclinic.com](mailto:rvcollectiveresponse@bradleyfreeclinic.com).

— BE A PART OF —  
**AN EPIDEMIC OF  
ACTION**

WE HAVE A PLAN. YOU HAVE A PART.



# Recommendations

1 Increase **transitional housing** for those who are leaving incarceration, in residential treatment, participating in drug court, and homeless or housing insecure.

2 Prioritize **keeping families together** with housing supported by wrap around services and collaborative partnerships.

3 **Facilitate connections** among housing resources and service providers to enable on-site and wrap around supports.

4 Create **mixed-use, mixed income** housing that addresses the continuum of need.

5 Proactively encourage and enable **public-private partnerships** to meet gaps in recovery housing availability.

6 Explore **innovative housing models**, like Recovery Villages, tiny houses, and community-oriented development (COD) models.

7 Engage and educate among and across the Roanoke community to **reduce stigma** and gain support for recovery housing.

8 Continue **ongoing exploration**, evaluation and monitoring of capacity and capabilities of recovery housing resources.

9 Create **phased and flexible** housing.

# 1 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Dedicate existing housing and funds towards the renovation of properties already owned, to create more transitional recovery housing with slight changes to staffing and processes.

Conduct an assessment of the needs and gaps for transitional housing. ***Related to Recommendation #8.***

Create phased and flexible housing for a range of ages, recovery goals, life stages, and time periods. ***Related to Recommendation #9.***

## 2

# KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Look at state and federal policy guidance for facilities that serve the whole family.

Identify and convene service providers and developers within the Roanoke Valley to support whole family housing facilities.

Expand Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) options for women with children.

Learn from other Keeping Families Together recovery housing programs.



# 3

## FACILITATE CONNECTIONS

Develop a strategy for increasing recovery housing at the citywide scale. Implement this overall framework through the City Manager and City Council to guide development recommendations for the Planning Commission, etc.

Improve use of Central Intake and Virginia 2-1-1 as a clearing house for making referrals to services and resources. Develop a mobile app to help people identify "next in line" resources. Pull regional resources together.



# 4 MIXED USE, MIXED INCOME

The Urban Village Project envisions subscription housing and co-living spaces. Street view—by EFFEKT Architects for SPACE10

Promote higher density, mixed use, mixed income, creative reuse housing options, including through developer incentives and streamlined zoning processes. ***Related to Recommendations #5, 6.***

Align development with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) housing study and regional development projects. ***Related to Recommendations #5, 6.***



# 5 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Convene meetings between private developers and public investors to explore mutual interests in recovery housing projects.

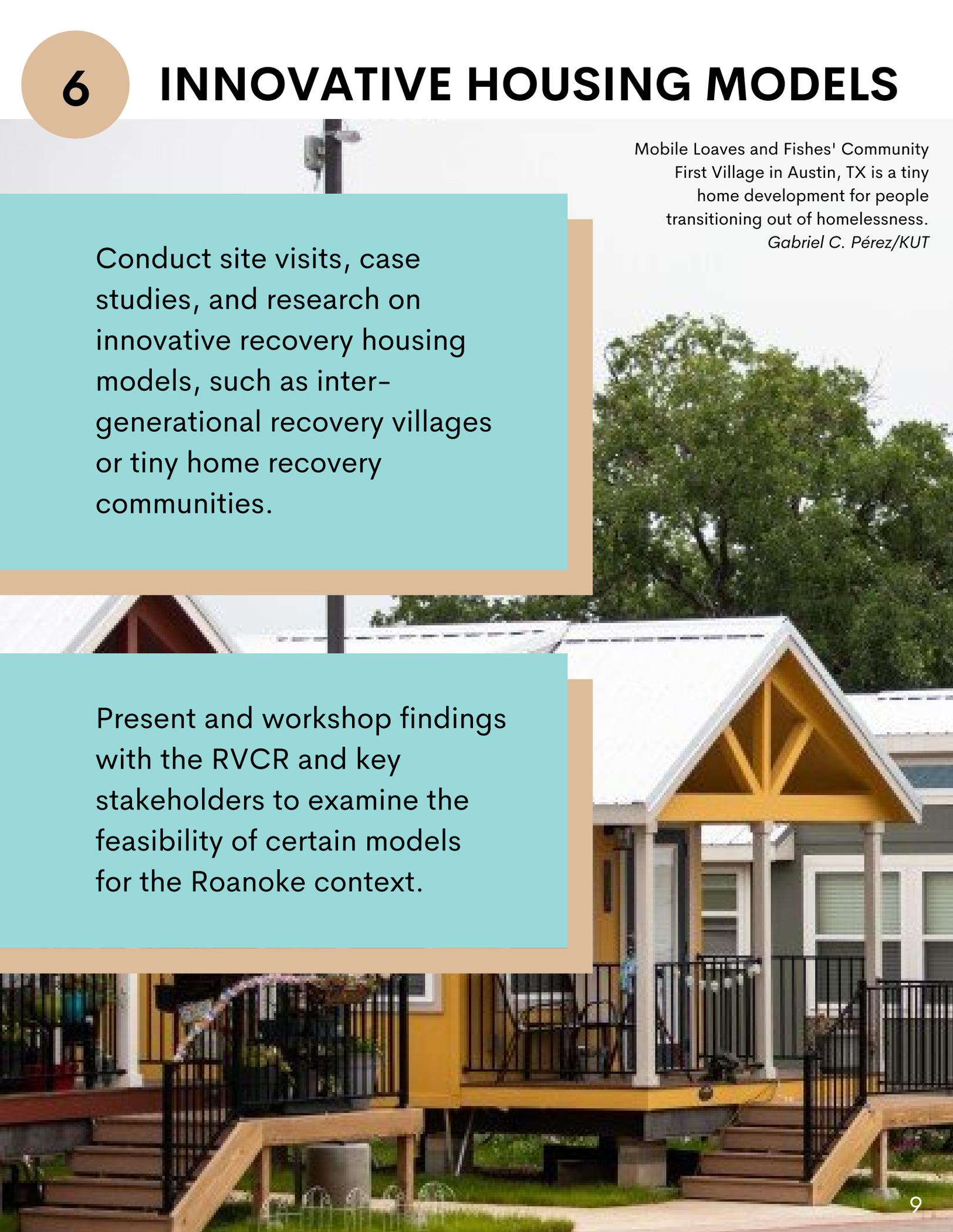
# 6 INNOVATIVE HOUSING MODELS

Conduct site visits, case studies, and research on innovative recovery housing models, such as inter-generational recovery villages or tiny home recovery communities.

Present and workshop findings with the RVCR and key stakeholders to examine the feasibility of certain models for the Roanoke context.

Mobile Loaves and Fishes' Community First Village in Austin, TX is a tiny home development for people transitioning out of homelessness.

*Gabriel C. Pérez/KUT*



# 7

## REDUCE STIGMA

Identify and provide educational opportunities to address NIMBYism and community stigma about housing people in recovery in the Roanoke Valley.

Connect recovery housing education and outreach with the RVARC regional development campaign.

# 8

# ONGOING EXPLORATION

Conduct community-based participatory research to identify and define "success" for people in recovery housing, to improve the quality of recovery housing and to monitor the benefits of early prevention and housing interventions.

— BE A PART OF —  
**AN EPIDEMIC OF  
FOCUS**

WE HAVE A PLAN. YOU HAVE A PART.

