

Drug-Checking

Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$700,000 Obligated: \$699,788 Spent: \$408,106

Drug-checking in 18 V.S.A. § 4201 is defined as: “Drug-checking” means the testing of a substance to determine its chemical composition or assist in determining whether the substance contains contaminants, toxic substances, or hazardous compounds.

Community drug-checking is a process through which members of the public can have their drugs tested to determine their chemical composition or assist in determining whether the sample contains contaminants, toxic substances, or hazardous compounds.

The primary goal of community drug-checking is to support Vermonters in making informed decisions about their health to prevent overdose and other adverse outcomes related to substance use.

Individuals seeking drug checking services from state grantees receive legal immunity under 18 V.S.A. § 4201.

Drug-Checking Cont.

In April 2024, the Vermont Department of Health published the [Vermont Community Drug-Checking Program Guidelines](#).

The guidelines describe:

- Definitions and Legal References
- Community Drug-Checking Technology Requirements
- Evaluation Plan
- Staffing and Training Requirements
- Implementation
- Data Collection

Drug-Checking Cont.

Two-year grants were issued through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

Drug-Checking Grantee	On-Site Drug-Checking Spectroscopy Used
AIDS Project of Southern Vermont (Brattleboro)	Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)
HIV/HCV Resource Center (White River Junction)	Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)
Howard Center Safe Recovery (Burlington) <i>Discontinued as of 7/1/2026</i>	Raman spectroscopy
Vermont CARES (Burlington, Barre, St. Johnsbury, Rutland)	Raman spectroscopy
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (Burlington) <i>Beginning July 2026</i>	Raman spectroscopy

Drug-Checking Technology and Process

FTIR

“Fourier-Transform Infrared spectrometer/spectroscopy (FTIR)”



Raman

“Raman spectroscopy”



Drug-Checking cont.

Year 1 Data (September 2024 – August 2025)

381 samples were reported from the four drug checking programs.
The portion of samples from each is:

- 30% HIV/HCV Resource Center
- 29% Vermont CARES
- 26% AIDS Project of Southern VT
- 15% Howard Center Safe Recovery

The number of monthly samples received peaked in December through February.

Common substances detected: Fentanyl, Cocaine/Crack Cocaine, Methamphetamines, Xylazine

Year 2 data analysis will begin in October 2026.

Recovery Housing Supports - Vouchers

Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$325,000 Obligated: \$325,000 Spent: \$295,744

The voucher program provides financial assistance to people in the early stages of recovery who may not have a stable income or employment.

Vermonters can request assistance to help with room and board for a short period of time during the application process to a certified recovery home.

The vouchers are primarily for individuals who have limited or no income, are exiting treatment programs or the justice system, and are at risk of homelessness.

Vouchers cover the entry fee for a resident to access certified recovery residences with the balance going toward the resident's weekly obligation, until exhausted.

Recovery Housing Supports - Vouchers

Vendor: Vermont Alliance of Recovery Residences (VTARR)

292 Vouchers were issued between 10/24 and 6/26

Frequent Referral Sources:

- Vermont Foundation of Recovery
- Jenna's Promise
- Second Wind Foundation
- Ben's House
- Shires Housing - Paradise Recovery Home
- Springfield Turning Point - Chester
- Common Ground Recovery

Sustainability: \$640,000 obligated for Year 1 of RHT