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## **Role and Benefit Sober Living Coalition Membership**

**Sober living homes are community assets and essential recovery support resources.** The Sober Living Network has a successful and widely accepted quality assurance approach that identifies homes that are healthy, safe, well managed and ethical.

### **THE ROLE:**

Sober living homes provide low cost recovery support housing for recovering alcoholics, addicts and their family members. The primary role of a Coalition is to maintain and enhance the quality of these homes as recovery resources. The Network supports the Coalition in establishing, implementing and maintaining quality standards.

Sober Living Homes are exempt from state licensing since they do not provide licensable recovery or treatment services. Quality homes are an essential resource of a County's effort to address and reduce costly alcohol and drug problems. Homes operate with a democratic culture in which residents develop their personal recovery maintenance programs.

The Sober Living Network provides information; training, technical assistance and advocacy resources for coalitions and their homes. Coalition member homes in your County enjoy all the benefits of support from, and collaboration with the Sober Living Network.

### **THE BENEFITS:**

*"We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."*

*-Benjamin Franklin,*

Below are some of the important benefits of local sober living coalitions, which meet regularly to share information and assist each other to improve the quality of their recovery supportive housing

1. ***Improve your overall Operations:*** Monthly coalition meetings serve as self-help learning sessions where members share practical ideas and learn to utilize resources and improve their operations. Your Coalition participation ensures a strong linkage to the activities of other Coalitions and timely information on issues affecting recovery housing.
2. ***Enhanced reputation improves referral relationships:*** Coalition homes benefit from the reputation for professionalism and sound recovery support practices developed by the Network and its affiliated coalitions over twenty years. This reputation is valued by professionals in making referrals to sober living homes.
3. ***Strong advocacy voice:*** Local governments will develop misguided zoning and land use laws that can have a negative effect on your homes. Participation in your local Coalition will prepare you individually and as a group on the best practices in defending the rights of your homes and your residents.
4. ***Empowers sober housing operators*** to maintain control of their own direction and fate. Coalitions operate on the principle of attraction rather than promotion. Membership is voluntary and coalitions only attract those home operators who are willing and able to provide quality supportive housing for recovering persons.
5. ***Enhances the quality of life in our communities:*** Coalition membership assures the public and potential residents that your home meets important health, safety, management and ethical requirements. Coalition members are the first to become aware of homes having problems, and they have the best ability to respond quickly to community and resident concerns.
6. ***Membership brings assistance from the Network:*** The Sober Living Network and coalition members will assist homes develop important community and industry linkages, including (where available) low-income housing financial assistance, recovery-related services and commodity donation programs. Resource development for sober living housing allows the grassroots community recovery movement to offer equal recovery opportunities for disadvantaged populations without relying on government assistance.