

**Supported housing** - A residential facility that provides housing and may also provide assistance, care, supervision or services such as medical, educational, training, personal services, meals, or life management to the residents. Such a facility may be focused on long-term rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, or transition from major life disruption, and includes facilities required to be licensed under 33 VSA 7102 as a “therapeutic community residence” or “residential care home”

**Elder care facility** - a type of supported housing in which a majority of the beds are occupied by persons aged 60 or over. This category includes nursing homes, assisted living residences and homes for persons who are terminally ill (hospice) facilities, with definitions as per 33 V.S.A. §7102.

**Group home (also called a residential care home)** -- A residential facility to be licensed by the state, serving 8 or fewer residents who have a disability as defined by 9 VSA 4501, or a recovery residence serving 8 or fewer residents, that shall be considered by right to constitute a single-family residential use of a property as provided by **24 VSA 4412**.

**Recovery residence** – A residential facility which provides shared living accommodations supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder, that provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing available support services and community resources, and is certified by an organization approved by the Vermont Department of Health as provided by 24 VSA 4412[1][G]. This use is considered by right to constitute a single-family residential use of a property, in the same way that a group home is.

**Emergency shelter** - A facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and that does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements as specified in 24 VSA 4303.

*(this is the “Emergency shelter” definition from Act 47)*

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**(for reference):**

**State statutes:**

24 VSA 4412[1][G]

*A residential care home or group home to be operated under State licensing or registration, serving not more than eight persons who have a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501, or a recovery residence serving not more than eight persons, shall be considered by right to constitute a permitted single-family residential use of property. This subdivision (G) does not require a municipality to allow a greater number of*

residential care homes or group homes on a lot than the number of single-family dwellings allowed on the lot. As used in this subdivision, “recovery residence” means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:

(i) Provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorders.

(ii) Is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences or another approved organization or is pending such certification. If certification is pending beyond 45 days, the municipality shall retain its right to consider the residence pursuant to zoning bylaws adopted in compliance with 24 V.S.A. § 4411.

### **9 VSA 4501**

*Disability,” with respect to an individual, means:*

(A) a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities;

(B) a history or record of such an impairment; or

(C) being regarded as having such an impairment.

(3) “Physical or mental impairment” means:

(A) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; or endocrine.

(B) Any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental condition, and specific learning disabilities.

(C) The term “physical or mental impairment” includes diseases and conditions such as orthopedic, visual, speech, and deafness or being hard of hearing, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, developmental disability, emotional disturbance, and substance use disorders, including drug addiction and alcoholism. An individual with a disability does not include any individual with a substance use disorder who, by reason of current alcohol or drug use, constitutes a direct threat to property or safety of others.