

Existing Gaps in Residential Treatment for Substance Use Disorders in New Mexico

The American Society of Addiction Medicine's (ASAM) continuum of care for adult addiction treatment classifies residential treatment as one of the highest [levels of care](#). Residential treatment centers can offer high-intensity care for those with substance use disorders who may not otherwise meet criteria for hospitalization. These settings can offer a variety of services such as individual and/or group therapy and peer support, which may be helpful to those in need of wrap-around care. Residential treatment centers can also offer medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), which are considered the gold standard of treatment for opioid use disorder.

Currently, New Mexico accredited adult residential treatment centers (AARTCs) are not required to be licensed and regulated by the state. To receive state Medicaid reimbursement, [AARTCs](#) must be accredited by The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or the Council on Accreditation and certified through the Health Care Authority's Behavioral Health Services Division. While these processes are a move in the right direction, they alone are not enough to ensure strong clinical care standards or state oversight of these facilities. According to the [New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee](#), Medicaid spent more than \$4 million in 2020 on residential treatment and expected higher spending for the following year. Given this amount of spending, it is crucial that the state ensure a process of licensure to set standards of care that ensure New Mexicans receive consistent quality treatment in a residential setting.

In establishing a process of licensure for AARTCs, the state should require, at minimum, fidelity to ASAM's criteria for residential treatment facilities and the provision of on-site MOUD by offering at least one agonist medication.