

MCRSP LIFELINE

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MCRSP IN THE NEWS

We're excited to share that Brendon Steenbergen, Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers, was recently featured on The Daily Blend with AC! In this insightful conversation, Brendon discusses the critical role MCRSP plays in advancing recovery support services across Missouri, the ongoing efforts to break the stigma surrounding substance use, and the importance of community involvement in supporting individuals on their recovery journey.



ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

On January 15th, MCRSP had the honor of attending Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe's Prayer Breakfast, an annual gathering that unites leaders from across Missouri in a spirit of faith, reflection, and service. This year's theme, *Someone On My Side*, emphasized the profound impact of support systems and the strength found in unity. Whether in leadership, recovery, or personal growth, having someone to stand beside us can be the key to overcoming challenges and building stronger communities.

Representing MCRSP at this meaningful event were Executive Director Brendon Steenbergen, Board Chair Marsha Hawkins-Hourd, Executive Board Member Ladell Flowers, and Director of Administration Christa Kiesling.

The event's special guest speaker, Josh Smith, offered a powerful testimony of redemption and transformation. Once incarcerated in a federal prison camp for drug trafficking, Smith has since dedicated his life to helping others find hope and a new path forward. As the founder and CEO of Fourth Purpose, he works to support incarcerated individuals in turning their lives around, reinforcing the belief that every person has the potential to change and succeed when given the right support.

At MCRSP, we are committed to ensuring that individuals in recovery never have to walk alone. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this event and stand alongside so many dedicated leaders working to make a difference in Missouri.



HOUSING ACCREDITATIONS

This year has been an active and impactful one for MCRSP. We accredited 1,050 beds in 2024, while 319 beds closed, marking a 35% increase from last year. In total, 320 houses have been accredited, with 242 remaining active.

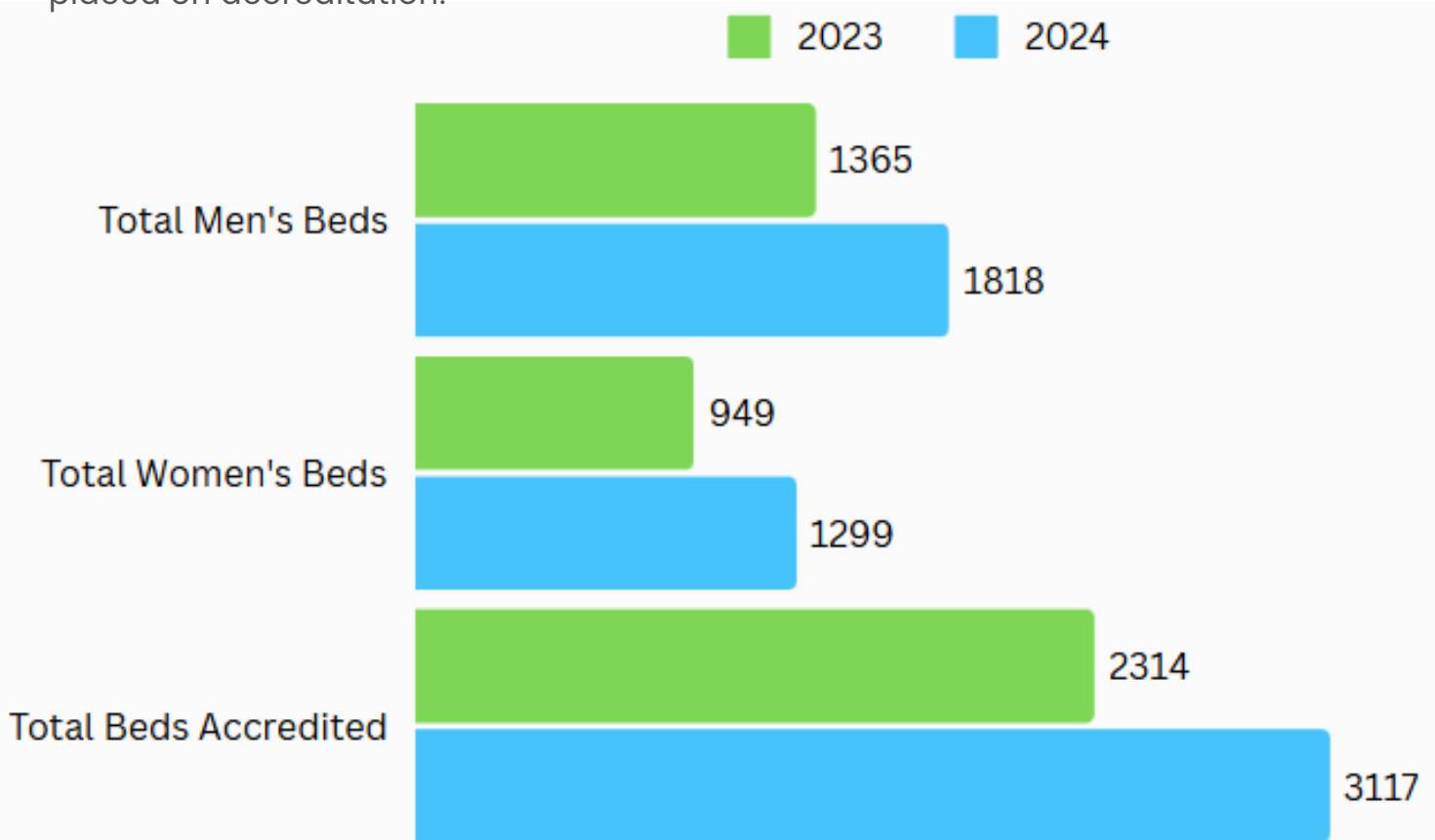
Our efforts led to significant growth in recovery housing across Missouri, with an increase of 453 beds for men (33%) and 350 beds for women (37%). A major milestone was achieved this year as we surpassed 3,000 accredited beds statewide—a testament to the dedication of our recovery community.

New applications remained steady compared to last year, while program renewals nearly doubled, demonstrating the growing value placed on accreditation.

However, 2024 also presented challenges. More houses closed this year than in 2023, primarily due to financial constraints, lack of local support, or decisions not to seek reaccreditation.

Beyond accreditation, MCRSP remained active in 15 conferences and events, strengthening community outreach and educating professionals and the public. Our commitment to expanding recovery housing extends beyond Missouri, as we continue mentoring Iowa, Kansas, and Arkansas. To date, we have accredited 14 houses in Iowa, 7 in Kansas, and 8 in Arkansas.

We are proud of the progress made this year and look forward to continued growth and impact in 2025!



Dear MCRSP Community,

The new year is well underway and we are reminded that with every fresh start comes both new opportunities and new challenges. The work we do together at MCRSP continues to make a measurable difference in the lives of thousands of Missourians. In fact, we are serving more individuals than ever before, and the latest statistics show that our efforts are paying off. Overdose deaths in Missouri are declining, and more people are achieving long-term recovery through the support of peer-based and faith-based programs. This progress fuels our determination to expand access to recovery services across the state.

At the same time, we recognize that change is on the horizon. A new legislative session is now underway, and with a new President and Governor, there is a sense of both uncertainty and optimism about what lies ahead for the world of recovery. One thing remains clear: MCRSP will continue to be a strong voice advocating for recovery support services, ensuring that our work remains a priority at every level of government

That's why, in the coming weeks, MCRSP members from across Missouri will be meeting with their state legislators to deliver a unified message: Recovery support services work. And not only do they work for individuals suffering from addiction, but they also work for the state of Missouri—saving lives, strengthening communities, and reducing costs to our healthcare and criminal justice systems. We know that when state leaders partner with MCRSP, they invest in solutions that have been proven to reduce relapse, reduce crime, increase employment, and build stronger families.

As we move forward into this year, we are grateful for each of you who are part of this journey—whether you are providing direct services, advocating for policy change, or supporting the movement in your own way. Together, we will continue to make a difference. Thank you for your commitment to recovery in Missouri.

Warm regards,

Brendon Steenberg
Executive Director, MCRSP

MINI-GRANTS

The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers receives funding from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to help community organizations host local events that raise awareness about substance use, break stigma, and connect individuals to essential resources. We encourage organizations to apply soon to take advantage of the remaining funds.



MINI GRANT AWARDS



On December 31, 2024, the Reentry Opportunity Center, a division of In2Action, hosted a Recovery Bingo event, providing a safe and sober space for individuals to ring in the new year. The event brought together community members for an evening of fun, connection, and celebration without substances. Attendees enjoyed lively bingo games, prizes, and fellowship, reinforcing the importance of supportive environments in recovery. Events like these highlight the power of community in fostering lasting recovery and offering positive, stigma-free spaces for celebration.



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