



## Shakopee Police Department

### Recovery Assistance Program:

### Sober Living Award

Launched in April 2016, the Recovery Assistance Program (RAP) provided financial assistance to Shakopee residents seeking drug/alcohol treatment while building a relationship between officers and these high-risk community members by offering scholarships to cover treatment expenses. The Recovery Assistance Program was launched with two major goals: first, to provide financial assistance to people seeking drug/alcohol treatment via a \$3,000 scholarship toward the cost of treatment; second, to build a relationship and additional support network for RAP participants.

Starting in 2023, RAP expanded to include supporting people living in sober housing in Shakopee, MN. With this new initiative, the Shakopee Police Department is offering financial assistance to Shakopee sober home residents. Each applicant can identify what their greatest financial challenges are and apply for a sober living award, which commonly covers expenses such as rent, community center membership and transportation. However, each applicant can identify what support THEY need. Some examples include GED class fees, boarding for pet while in sober home, bicycle purchase, etc.

We currently partner with four organizations that provide sober homes in Shakopee: A Way Out Recovery, Allos Ministry, Damascus Way and Northstar Regional. Our partnered sober home organizations assist residents with an application. To qualify, all applicants need to remain at the sober home and in compliance with all sober house rules and not commit any crimes during the award period(s).

The Shakopee Police Department helps partnered sober homes and residents remain updated on resources that are available in the community to assist in meeting the needs of the award recipients. These resources can include programs like Diversion Solutions driver's license reinstatement program, free food resources, Three Rivers-Scott County Parks free Recreation Passes, free or reduced cost for medical and dental care etc.

Now with the sober living awards, people with past addictions have an opportunity to be supported during their transition back into a sober lifestyle while they gain the skills and knowledge to once again live healthy lives, remain crime free, become better partners & parents and give back to the community.

Shakopee's Recovery Assistance Program treatment scholarship and sober living award programs are firsts of a kind. While there are other recovery assistance type programs out there, the Shakopee Police Department's RAP is unique in several ways. First, they are not amnesty programs. Shakopee's RAP treatment scholarship and sober living award programs form a partnership -both with treatment/sober housing partners AND with those seeking help, which in some cases goes well-beyond treatment. Second, many programs have a primary focus on opioids. While opioids are definitely a concern, the RAP program is available to any Shakopee resident seeking treatment, regardless of his/her type of use.

Shakopee Police Department was also the first department in Minnesota to join PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative) which allows for increased networking opportunities among other departments that have recovery assistance programs.

To request an application and guidelines for the Recovery Assistance Program sober living award, contact Barb at:

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