



# N.H. Alcohol Fund

1 in 5 deaths among U.S. adults ages 20-49 is from excessive alcohol use. In this age group, New Hampshire has the 12th highest rate of alcohol-attributable deaths. <sup>1</sup>

The Alcohol Fund provides an **innovative, fiscally responsible, common-sense** approach to address a real need in New Hampshire. However, since its inception, it has been historically underfunded or diverted elsewhere.

## History of the Alcohol Fund

Financed through the revenues generated through liquor sales in New Hampshire, the Alcohol Abuse, Prevention & Treatment Fund ("Alcohol Fund") was established in law in 2000. The intent behind the creation of the Alcohol Fund was to direct 5% of gross profits of alcohol sales to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery. It is administered through the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

## How Much is Five Percent?

Year over year, the NH Liquor Commission announces record-breaking sales and revenue. In 2021, NHLC recorded total gross sales of \$801 million. Five percent of gross profits that year were estimated at \$10.3 million. In 2018, the Alcohol Fund was fully funded at 5% (\$10 million) for the first time since it had been created, however, these funds were immediately diverted to the New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust (Medicaid expansion) to fund the required 10% state share.

## Future Funding Uncertain

With the Alcohol Fund fully funded but fully diverted, a huge hole was left in the state to fund behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery programs contracted through the Governor's Commission. Fortunately, New Hampshire's 26 hospitals provided voluntary funding of \$10 million per year until December 2023. After 2023, there is no promise of continued funding.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol Related Disease Impact (ARDI) application, 2022. Available at [www.cdc.gov/ARDI](http://www.cdc.gov/ARDI).

## Currently Funded Programs

### PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

- Direct Substance Misuse Prevention Programs
- Purple Star Program-prevention supports for military families
- Student Assistance Programs
- Home Visiting

### TREATMENT, CRISIS & ACCESS

- Family Support Services
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services
- Medication Assisted Services

### RECOVERY

- Recovery Support Centers
- Recovery housing certification and rental assistance
- Peer recovery outreach to homeless shelters and encampments

Complete list of funded programs is available

To ensure New Hampshire remains committed to prevention, treatment and recovery, policymakers need to:



Permanently reauthorize Medicaid expansion but separate out the 10% state share from the Alcohol Fund.



Utilize the Alcohol Fund for the intended purpose of supporting Governor's Commission prevention, treatment, and recovery contracted programs and services.



Fully fund the Alcohol Fund - 5% of liquor gross profits - estimated to increase to \$11-\$12 million in 2024 and 2025.