



Freedom House

Program: The Family Afterward for Mothers and Their Children

Who we are

Through recovery-oriented services, Freedom House empowers individuals with substance use and mental health disorders to live a healthy and independent lifestyle. Since 1986, we save lives, reunite families, and cultivate strong and safe communities. Our comprehensive programs offer a continuum of care regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

The program we are proposing

Women in recovery have more complex challenges with reuniting and caring for children. Freedom House has been working for the last few years to bring The Family Afterward (TFA) program, which reunites women who are in recovery with their children, to Morristown. The sober-living program in Morris County will replicate our successful model in Trenton and also expand our current 20-bed sober living reach in Morris County. Since 2000, we have admitted 200 women and reunited 400 children with their mothers. It is one of the few programs in NJ offering services to women with children.

Freedom House is an integral part of Morristown and the Morris County recovery community, serving on the Morris County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drugs. We accept referrals from other treatment programs including residential and outpatient programs, and referrals will be made for clients to access needed services in the community including outpatient substance use and mental health disorder treatment facilities. We are a contracted agency with the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addictions, sharing outcomes and ensuring best practices. Residents from neighboring counties will be eligible to live in the Morristown Home while in recovery and reuniting with their children.

What makes this a high-impact program

Women in recovery often face a narrow window of time before risking the permanent loss of custody of their children—many to an overburdened foster care system. Increasingly, women enter recovery programs homeless, with newborns or infants, believing that their only option is to place their children for adoption. TFA offers a vital alternative: allowing mothers to keep their children while equipping them with the tools to achieve economic independence while maintaining sobriety.

TFA provides comprehensive support, including life skills and parenting training, and guidance in navigating New Jersey's complex child custody system. For clients with active cases with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, TFA ensures compliance and steady progress. Our staff advocates for families in court and works closely with case workers, law guardians, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and other stakeholders.

TFA keeps families together in a healthy, supportive environment.

How we will make it happen

The longer a person remains in a supportive care environment, the greater their chances of recovery. The program reduces relapse and provides stable housing and wrap-around services. The residential recovery project services include:

- Safe, supportive, recovery-enhancing environment
- Case management and on-site residential staff support
- Linkage to community-based healthcare, behavioral care, and other needed services
- Medication-assisted treatment provided via telehealth through Freedom House's outpatient service
- Life Skills Training (Financial Literacy, Healthy Cooking on a budget, conflict resolution, etc.)
- Alcohol and drug monitoring

The new home will serve five women and their children and create transformational change opportunities for women to learn to live sober and become productive members of society.

Because there aren't treatment dollars available to provide the sober-living component of the continuum of care, an Impact100 Garden State grant will sustain the case manager services for the first three years of the program.

How we will measure success

The success criteria for the program are mothers who are

- free from alcohol and drugs
- custodians of their children
- stably housed upon completion of services

Freedom House tracks outputs for the Family Afterward program, and its effectiveness is evaluated through Outcome Measurement/Client Evaluation and post-graduation surveys.