

City of Boston + Ascension Recovery Services

Long Island Recovery Center (Boston Harbor) a Model of Care for the Entire Country

Boston is re-establishing the Long Island Recovery Center (LIRC) as a regional hub for recovery services, alongside a bridge replacement project to restore safe access to the island. The City positions the LIRC as a key element in tackling the opioid crisis with a full continuum of care on a purpose-built campus.



The Challenge

Create a scalable, financially sustainable recovery campus model that:

- Closes identified gaps in Boston's existing continuum,
- Integrates innovative and evidence-informed services, and
- Can serve as a replicable model for Massachusetts and the broader region.



The Ascension Recovery Services 7 Goals

1. Provide the highest quality services
2. Bolster the region's continuum of care
3. Explore new and innovative forms of care
4. Incorporate guest (client) input
5. Design a cohesive campus
6. Connect resources
7. Create a financially sustainable business model

The Ascension RS Scope and Approach

Master Planning with Gensler (Architectural Firm)

Campus planning and service design for a comprehensive recovery campus covering SUD and co-occurring MH care

Stakeholder Engagement & System Design

Engagement with city leadership (HHS and ORS) and recovery providers across Massachusetts to map gaps, promising practices, and program concepts to locate on Long Island.



- **Full Continuum: Detox, residential, step-down, outpatient, recovery support—coordinated on a single campus footprint. (City planning docs describe a continuum vision for Long Island; ARS echoes a comprehensive campus in its description.)**
- **Regional Impact: Serve Boston, the Commonwealth, and surrounding region; position LIRC as a national model.**
- **Financial Sustainability: Bake in value-based mechanisms and campus-wide operational economics from day one.**

Facility & Infrastructure Assessment

With the City of Boston PFD, assess existing structures and island infrastructure to determine reuse potential, renovation scope, and enabling works needed for a functional campus.

Reimbursement & Financial Model

Collaboration with MassHealth and the City to develop a value-based reimbursement construct aligned to the LIRC care model and long-term sustainability.

Standards Above Compliance

ARS notes licensure/regulatory baselines are minimums; the design targets “cutting-edge, person-centered, accessible” programming that exceeds minimum operating standards.

Program Distinction

This initiative reflects the power of public-private collaboration — uniting City agencies, MassHealth, and leading design and consulting partners to bring an ambitious vision to life. The result is a campus-scale recovery continuum intentionally built to exceed licensure minimums and serve as a replicable model for communities across Massachusetts and beyond.