

Overview

New Journey is a six-month highly structured residential treatment program for men recovering from substance use disorders. It is operated by the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (founded in 1893). Participants undergo screening, background checks, and program candidacy before acceptance. The program integrates addiction recovery services, counseling, like skills development, vocational training, and spiritual support.

- Six-month residential program with an optional six-month transitional phase.
- Evidence-based and faith-based curriculum.
- Educational instruction, work therapy, and vocational training.
- Mental health services and counseling are provided onsite.
- Daily routines
- Participants are paired with staff advocates for mentoring and support.
- Per applicant, *"100% of eligible graduates secured and maintained livable-wage employment within six months. There were 50 graduates of the program in 2024 with 36 vocational certifications earned. There were approximately 9,500 hours of academic instruction and work therapy provided."*

Screening and Eligibility

- Comprehensive screening that includes background checks and staff interviews.
- Initial four-week stay to determine program fit.
- Participants must agree to all program requirements such as complete sobriety, participation in structured activities, and limited off-campus access.
- All program members are private and voluntary, not court ordered. Participants voluntarily enroll to recover and improve their lives.

Security and Monitoring

- Onsite staffing 24/7.
- Mandatory sobriety with regular drug testing.
- Limited and structured off-campus privileges.
- Staff maintains oversight of participant movement and daily activities.
- Residents may be dismissed for failure to comply with requirements.
- Based on information provided by the applicant, the New Journey program in Milwaukee experienced a total of eight (8) calls of a medical nature in the last two years.
- Over this same period, there were zero (0) calls related to police.
- Participants are screened, supervised, and accountable to onsite staff.
- There is no walk-in, drop-in, or court-ordered population served.

Zoning and Land Use

- After reviewing the applicant's submitted information as well as city code, specifically Section 275-70 and 275-35, it is our conclusion that from a pure use standpoint the proposed New Journey facility is most appropriately categorized as

an institutional use given its nature as an inpatient/outpatient AODA treatment facility. We acknowledge that there is some faith-based component to the treatment programs and therefore that this use is arguably consistent with the definition of a community church as defined in the aforementioned code sections, as well as under RLUIPA. Such a use is considered a permitted use in our industrial zoning district.

- Based upon this analysis, the City considers this proposed use (church/treatment facility) to be a principle use and may be considered as such by the Plan Commission via a Use, Site, and Architectural permit review.
- Any zoning permit issued shall have the following provisions outlined:
 1. The use will be maintained consistent with the definition of a community church as per Section 275-70 of the city code.
 2. The use will be maintained in accordance with the permit(s) that the applicant is issued to operate the facility by any governmental entity with jurisdiction including the State of Wisconsin DHS.
 3. The use will be operated consistently with the approved plan of operation that was supplied by the applicant to the city.
 4. The applicant has indicated that in the event the use becomes tax exempt at any point that the property owner will make a payment in lieu of taxes to the city for the amount which would have been paid by a similar industrial use in Westridge Business Park. The agreement of this would be memorialized in an agreement to the property owner and the city which will be recorded with the Waukesha County Register of Deeds and will run in perpetuity with the land.