

W/B HIDTA Treatment and Prevention Spotlight

Tuerk House, Baltimore,
Maryland



Tuerk House has served adults struggling with addiction in the Baltimore metropolitan area since 1970. Dr. Isadore Tuerk, who at the time was the commissioner of the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, founded the program with the mission to transform lives by providing help and hope for enduring recovery to individuals, families and communities. In 2026, the Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA awarded Tuerk House funding to support this mission.

Since its inception, the program has grown tremendously. Tuerk House provides comprehensive treatment services, including:

- Crisis stabilization
- Inpatient detoxification
- Residential treatment
- Outpatient treatment
- Intensive outpatient treatment
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Peer support
- Integrated behavioral health services and urgent care
- Pharmacy
- Transportation
- Benefits enrollment and care coordination
- Recovery housing



Today, the Tuerk House main campus offers 82 beds available for residential treatment, serving almost 300 patients every day across their drug and alcohol treatment system. In 2024, Tuerk House served over 10,700 patients. Core to their mission is providing the best possible care to those who need it most, which their comprehensive benefits enrollment, care coordination, and on-site pharmacy reflect. The pharmacy, which is the only one located within a three-mile radius, maintains a fund to help patients cover co-pays and prescription costs. Tuerk House recognizes the community's needs for mental health services, primary care, and pharmacy services and is working to meet them, with plans to expand primary care and pharmacy offerings across Baltimore City. Tuerk House is also pursuing community care behavioral health center (CCBHC) designation, which would further expand mental health services.

Kisun Peters, Director of Business Development, spoke to the program's commitment to its patients and to bridging service gaps. "We make sure patients don't have to go to 6 different programs. They can get it all right here. My favorite thing to see is how our patients transform while they are with us. When a patient arrives in an ambulance, it's very sad to see, but when they leave, just two or four weeks later, they walk out with a new lease on life."

The philosophy of truly caring for patients and ensuring they have everything they need can be seen throughout Tuerk House – from the leadership and staff to the treatment environment itself. Staff describe the intentional design as climbing a ladder, where each rung prepares patients for the next step, a principle that guides all of their work. In 2024, Tuerk House remodeled its main campus with a clear focus on fostering a healing environment — from the paint colors and furniture to the artwork and dining area — and staff and clients alike have marveled at the transformation.



Participated in the Annual B'More Healthy Expo



Helped bring diverse communities together at Football v Fútbol, an annual health and wellness festival held at the Baltimore Peninsula

Funding from the W/B HIDTA is paramount to ensuring Tuerk House's capacity to serve the needs of Baltimore City. Looking ahead, Tuerk House aims to grow capacity alongside rising admissions and to continue improving patient outcomes. The program will continue promoting enduring recovery through comprehensive treatment services and core qualities of its staff – patience, kindness, and expertise. W/B HIDTA is honored to support the hard work and dedication brings to individuals, families, and communities throughout Baltimore.