

Participants in the Fort Gibson-based drug recovery program Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corporation are required to sign over the rights to their food stamp benefits, but sometimes aren't fed lunch, several former residents claim. At a different recovery program in Muskogee called Ray's House, former residents told The Oklahoman stories of being fed from food pantry donations and expired food from a grocery store. The program continues to collect food stamp benefits on behalf of its clients although a state audit two years ago found the program had received thousands of dollars more than it was entitled to receive from the program. Ray's House and FBTCC are not certified as drug treatment programs in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services does not regulate recovery programs in the state. However, Ray's House, FBTCC and similar Oklahoma programs are still able to collect food stamp benefits with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Read the rest of this story online at Newsok.com. A subscription may be required.