

Ending Homelessness in Vermont: Bringing Housing First Statewide



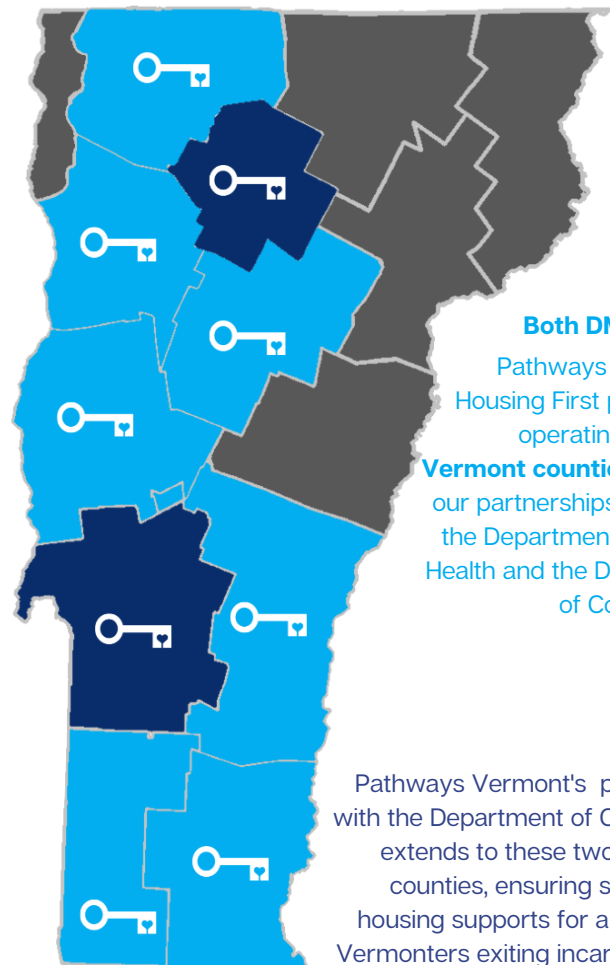
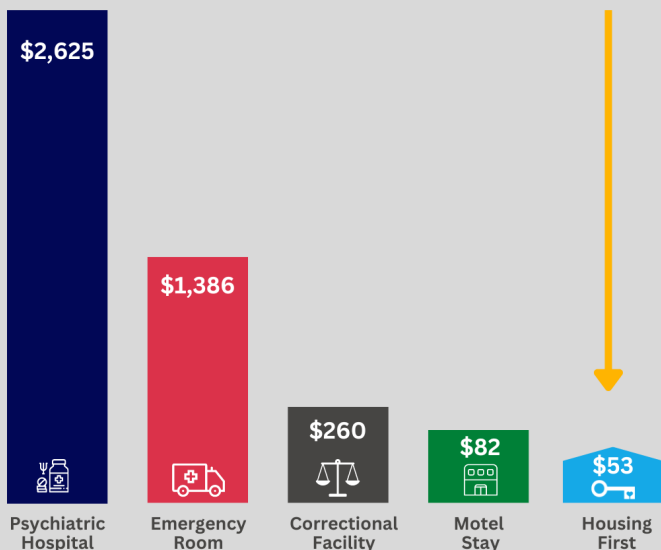
Responding to the Increase in Chronic Homelessness in Vermont

- The number of Vermonters experiencing homelessness in Vermont has **more than doubled** since 2018, from 1,291 to 2,780. In that time, the number of **Vermonters experiencing chronic homelessness has more than tripled**, from 153 to 449.
- An investment of **\$2.13 million** would enable Pathways Vermont to build on existing staff and system infrastructure that is in place to expand into the currently unserved counties of **Lamoille, Caledonia, Orleans, Orange, Essex, Rutland, and Grand Isle**.
- This funding would support **100 households** in Vermont experiencing chronic homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges, and disabilities to find and retain permanent and independent housing.

Housing First ends homelessness. It's that simple.

- Pathways Vermont, a Specialized Services Agency, has **ended the cycle of homelessness for 633 Vermonters** through its Housing First program. The program immediately ends homelessness by supporting individuals and families to locate independent apartments in the community.
- Pathways staff meet clients in their homes to provide service coordination, peer support, psychiatry, nursing care, and financial management support.
- **Pathways staff will work as long as needed, often years, meeting with Housing First clients to help maintain stability and well-being.**

Comparative Daily Cost



Both DMH & DOC
Pathways Vermont's Housing First program is operating in **seven Vermont counties** through our partnerships with both the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Corrections.

DOC Only
Pathways Vermont's partnership with the Department of Corrections extends to these two additional counties, ensuring service and housing supports for a total of 98 Vermonters exiting incarceration in **nine Vermont counties**.

(map as of July 2022)

Since 2010, Pathways Vermont has been transforming the lives of individuals struggling with mental health and other life challenges by creating access to choice, connection, and home.

The Pathways Vermont staff has the experience and expertise to provide stable, permanent housing and services through our Housing First program.



About **Housing First**: **An evidence-based approach to ending chronic homelessness**

Housing First programs quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing **without preconditions and barriers to entry**, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

Core Principles of Housing First

- A right to housing without preconditions
- Choice and self determination
- Wellness oriented
- Social inclusion and community integration
- Individualized and service recipient driven supports

Who Does Housing First Serve?

The people served by the Housing First program have experienced long histories of homelessness, involvement with corrections, frequent contact with emergency services, and long periods of institutionalization.

Core Characteristics of a Permanent Supportive Housing First Model



A multi-disciplinary team of professionals that provides wrap-around service.



The program components are informed by service recipient choice, peer support, and harm reduction.



There is a large and growing evidence base demonstrating that Housing First is the most effective solution to homelessness



The team is mobile, often meeting service recipients in their homes.

Pathways Vermont's Housing First Program By The Numbers

\$53

Average daily cost of
Housing First
program

633

Vermonters ended
their cycle of
chronic
homelessness

87%

Housing Retention
Rate for Housing First
clients in FY22