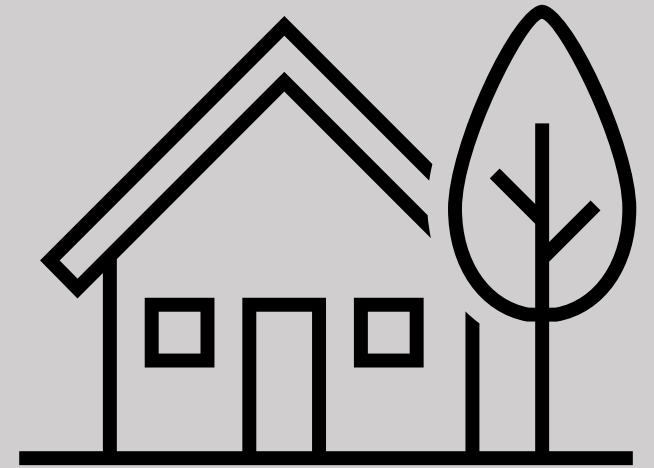


Housing Legislative Briefing

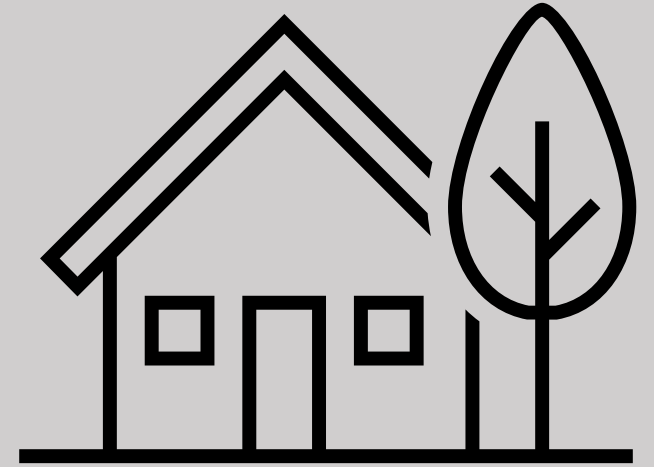
January 17, 2023



Emergency Housing Update

Department for Children and Families

January 2023



VERMONT

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Agency of Human Services

What does “homeless” mean?

Category 1: Literal Homelessness

- Unsheltered (*place not meant for human habitation*)
- Staying in an emergency shelter, including domestic violence (DV) shelters
- Staying in an emergency apartment (for families)
- Staying in a host home (for unaccompanied minors)
- Staying in transitional housing for the homeless (e.g., Veterans Place in Northfield)
- Staying in a motel paid for by a community partner (e.g., DV shelter)
- In the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program – aka, receiving a “motel voucher”
- In the DCF Transitional Housing Program

How many people are experiencing homelessness in Vermont?

Program	Households
DCF Transitional Housing Program (occupancy agreements or provisionally housed)	1,317
GA Emergency Housing	494
Emergency Shelter/Emergency Apartments (including motels through Domestic Violence Shelters)	Approx 500
Unsheltered (estimate based on local unofficial counts)	At least 150

Current Capacity

DCF Transitional Housing Program

1,317 households – 1,607 adults, 453 children

- No new applications (as of 10/1)
- Participants have an occupancy agreement with a participating lodging establishment
- Participants recertify eligibility every 90 days and must be participating in coordinated entry
- Up to 18 months, but limited by funding and planned to end March 31, 2023

Current Capacity, cont.

General Assistance Emergency Housing ("motel voucher")

494 Households - 597 adults, 168 children

- Provides emergency housing in a hotel/motel when no alternative shelter is available
- Eligibility/access through Economic Services or 2-1-1 (after hours)
 - "Catastrophic" or "Vulnerable", up to 28 or 84 days depending on eligibility
 - Adverse Weather Conditions Policy during winter months

Current Capacity, cont.

Emergency Shelter Network

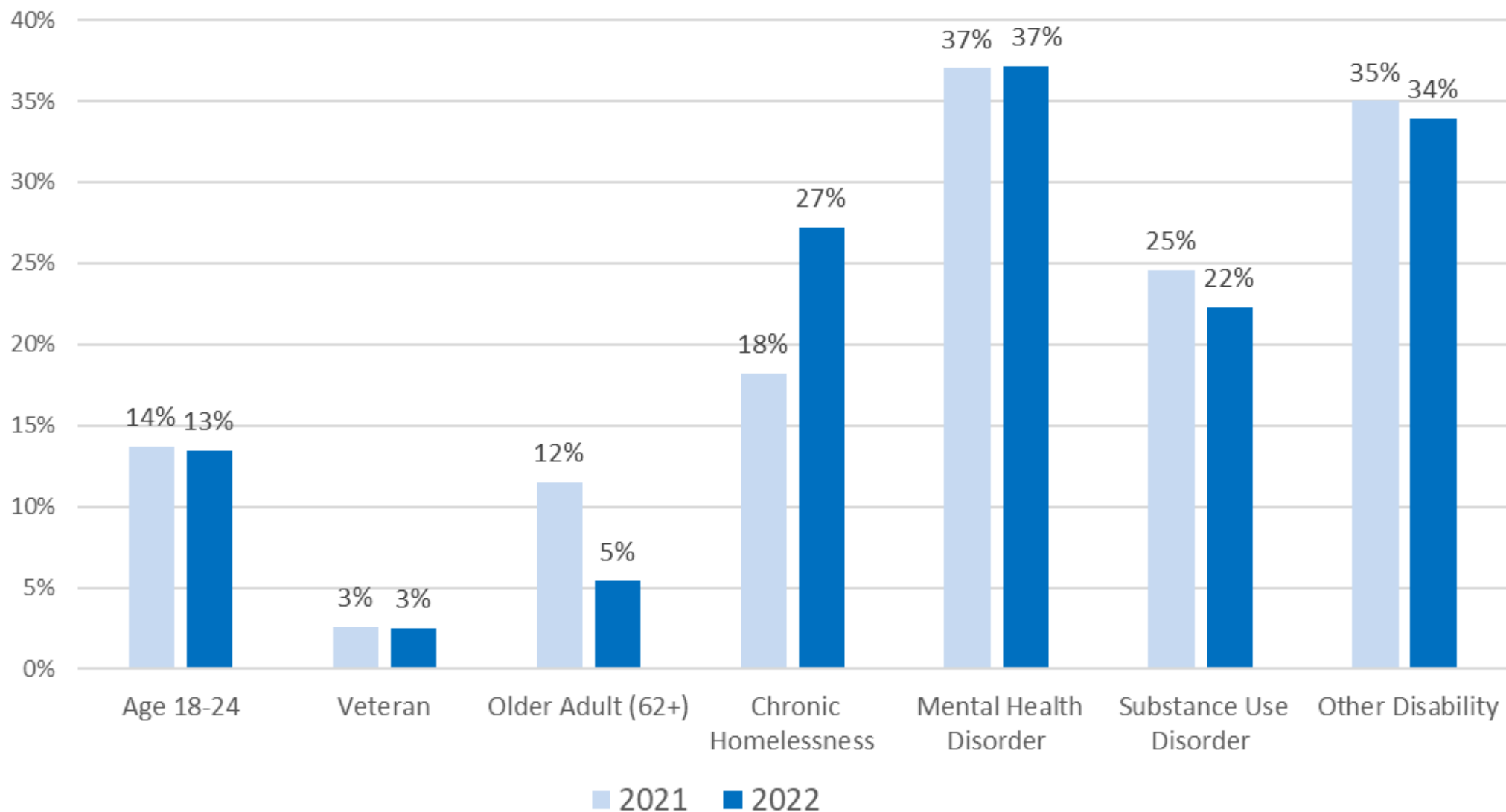
28 emergency shelters, 23 emergency apartments, DV motel overflow

About 525 household capacity (only 22 seasonal)

Shelter Preservation/Expansion in Past 2 Years:

- Significant investments to increase staffing capacity and raise wages to retain staff (including to expand sites to 24/7 and year-round)
- Supported shelter renovations (SFY22, SFY23 – 3 sites)
- This year: shelter project at Elmwood (Burlington) & new seasonal shelter
- Expanded # of emergency apartments in three areas (for families)
- Expanded DV Shelter capacity and DV motel overflow

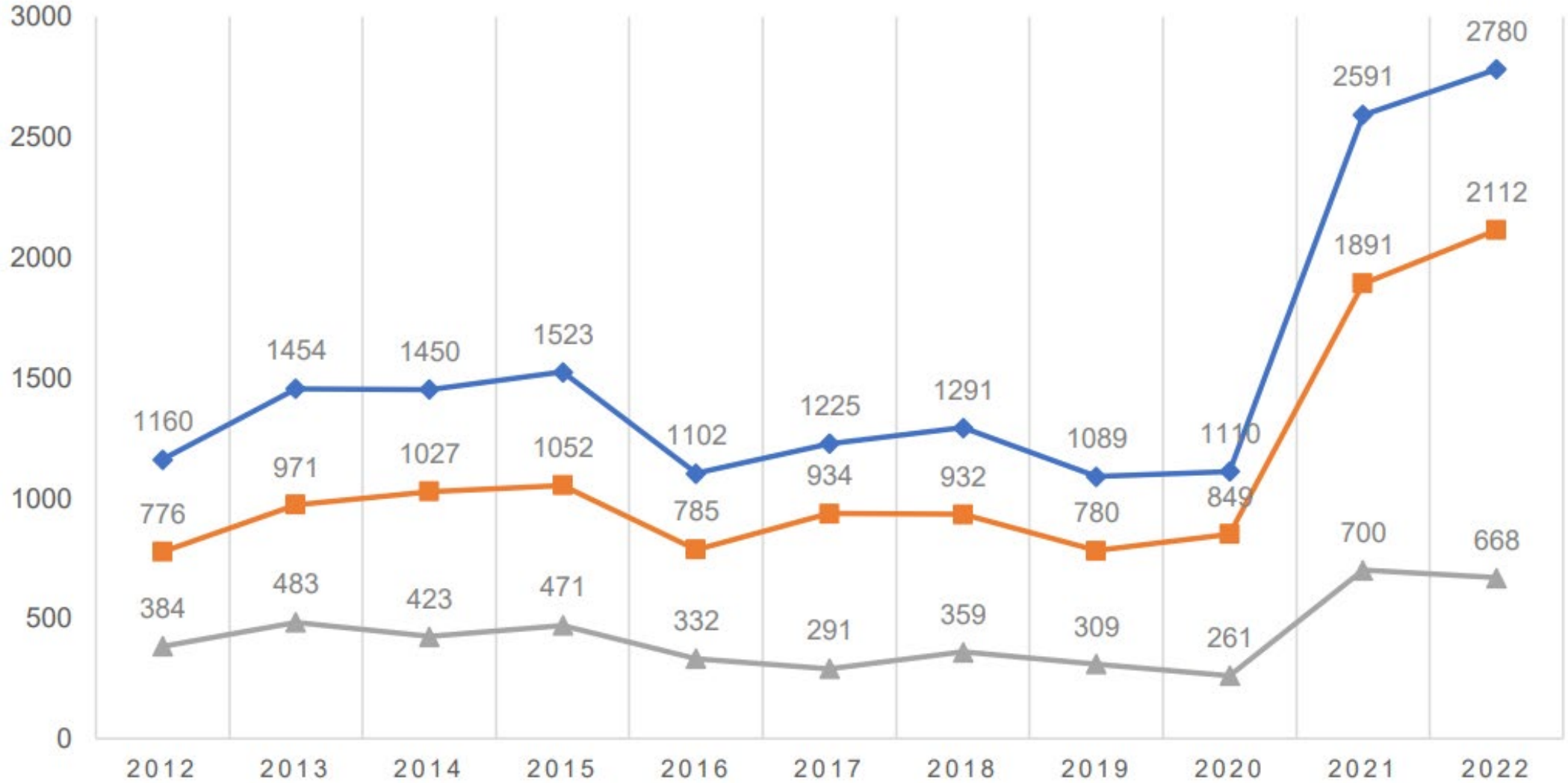
Characteristics of Adults Served by Emergency Shelters



TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Statewide BoS CoC CCHA CoC

*BoS: Balance of State Continuum of Care; CCHA: Chittenden County Homeless Alliance



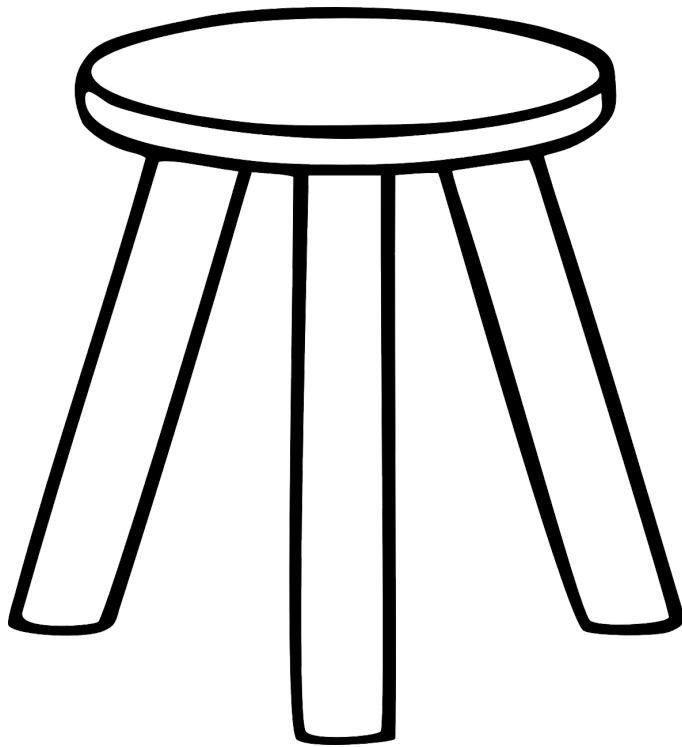
Coordinated Entry – System-wide Homeless Data

State Fiscal Year 2022:

4,302 households experienced or at imminent risk of homelessness
(excludes DV agencies)

Year	Avg Length of Time People Experience Homelessness
2018	79 days
2019	54 days
2020	No data
2021	152 days
2022	238 days

“Three legs of the Stool” to Solve Homelessness



1. **A Unit**
2. **Rental assistance** to fill the affordability gap
3. **Supportive services** tailored to help people get and keep housing – connections to employment and health services

COVID 19 Homelessness Response

Expanded “motel voucher” program to provide “non-congregate shelter” to meet COVID needs

Alternative COVID 19 Isolation/Quarantine Housing for Vermonters who do not have a suitable home environment

Reinforcement for the Shelter network

- Public Health Guidance, 1:1 technical assistance, training, supplies, funding, rapid response, testing and vaccination strategies for people experiencing homelessness

COVID-era Investments to Address Homelessness

Supplemental Funding for Shelters (CRF, GF) for COVID related needs, for expansion of hours/staffing, etc.

Capital Funds for Shelter Improvement, Expansion (CRF, ARPA, GF)

Capital Funds for New Permanent Housing, some dedicated to re-house homeless (CRF, ARPA, GF, CDBG-CV)

Expansion of GA Emergency Housing to provide non-congregate shelter (FEMA)

Temporary Transitional Housing Program to provide stability to households continuing in motels (ERAP)

Expansion of Motel-based Services, including Housing Navigation Services (CRF, FEMA, ERAP, GF)

Rental & Utility Assistance/Arrears for low-income Vermonters (CRF, ERAP)

Expansion of Family Supportive Housing (Medicaid, GF)

Court-based eviction prevention (ERAP)

Expanded housing support services (navigation, application, retention, legal services) (ERAP)

Rehab offline private-market units, designated to re-house homeless (CRF, ARPA)

Health and Safety Repairs support for landlords (ERAP)

Flexible financial assistance for households at-risk/homeless (CRF, GF)

One-time payments to support transition out of motels (CRF)

Rapid Re-housing rental assistance and services for households who are homeless (ESG-CV, CRF)

October 2022: Community Engagement Meetings

DCF engaged in hosting meetings in every region of the state to receive feedback from housing and service providers on the short-term ERA funding, and the winddown of the federal funding.

- 14 meetings (12 local and 2 statewide)
- 96 community organizations, along with AHS district staff
- More than 300 attendees

[Link to Summary](#)



Strategies

- Local collaboration and coordination
 - *Homeless Health Care Capacity Building Projects*
 - *Coordinated Entry*
- Support Services
 - *AHS Care Coordination Transitional Housing Resource Teams (Support in SFY23 BAA)*
 - *Housing Stability Services (\$15.2M in ERA Funding over 3 years)*
- Landlord Relief Program
 - *Statewide rental risk mitigation fund — launching February 2023*
- Address zoning and permitting barriers to expanding emergency shelters

Strategies, cont.



- Homelessness Prevention Supports
 - *Additional funding for Housing Opportunity Grant Program to prevent homelessness (\$500,000)*
 - *Temporary expansion of the Vermont Rental Subsidy program for Reach Up families (\$1.5M)*
- HOME Family Housing Voucher Project
 - *Launched rapid re-housing project in January 2023 to help 100 families exit homelessness*
 - *\$3 Million in SFY23 Budget Adjustment Act*
 - *Will support an additional 150 households with children*
 - *Modeled after the CARES-funded Housing Voucher Project which re-housed 272 homeless households with a temporary rapid re-housing voucher, which transitioned to a permanent voucher*

Funding Plans

Link to [DCF \\$15M General Fund Plan](#)

Link to [ERAP Funding \(Approved by JFC\)](#)

Housing Presentations

Link to [DCF Joint Committee Emergency Housing Presentation](#)

Link to [VHCB Legislative Housing Presentation](#)

Types of Housing Interventions

Homelessness Prevention

Strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them to stabilize/preserve existing housing or identify immediate alternative housing arrangements, and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

Emergency Shelter/Housing

By design, intended to be temporary and to help guests move into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Variety of forms: seasonal or year-round semi/non/congregate shelters, motel vouchers, DV shelters, emergency apartments, host homes for youth, etc.

Rapid Re-housing

Intervention that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that includes time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services

Permanent Supportive Housing

Evidence-based housing intervention that combines long-term affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people with complex service needs, as well as people with long-term disabilities

Affordable Housing

Housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying now more than 30 percent of their income for gross housing costs, including utilities



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State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

Commissioner Josh Hanford
Deputy Commissioner Alex Farrell



January 17, 2023 | 20

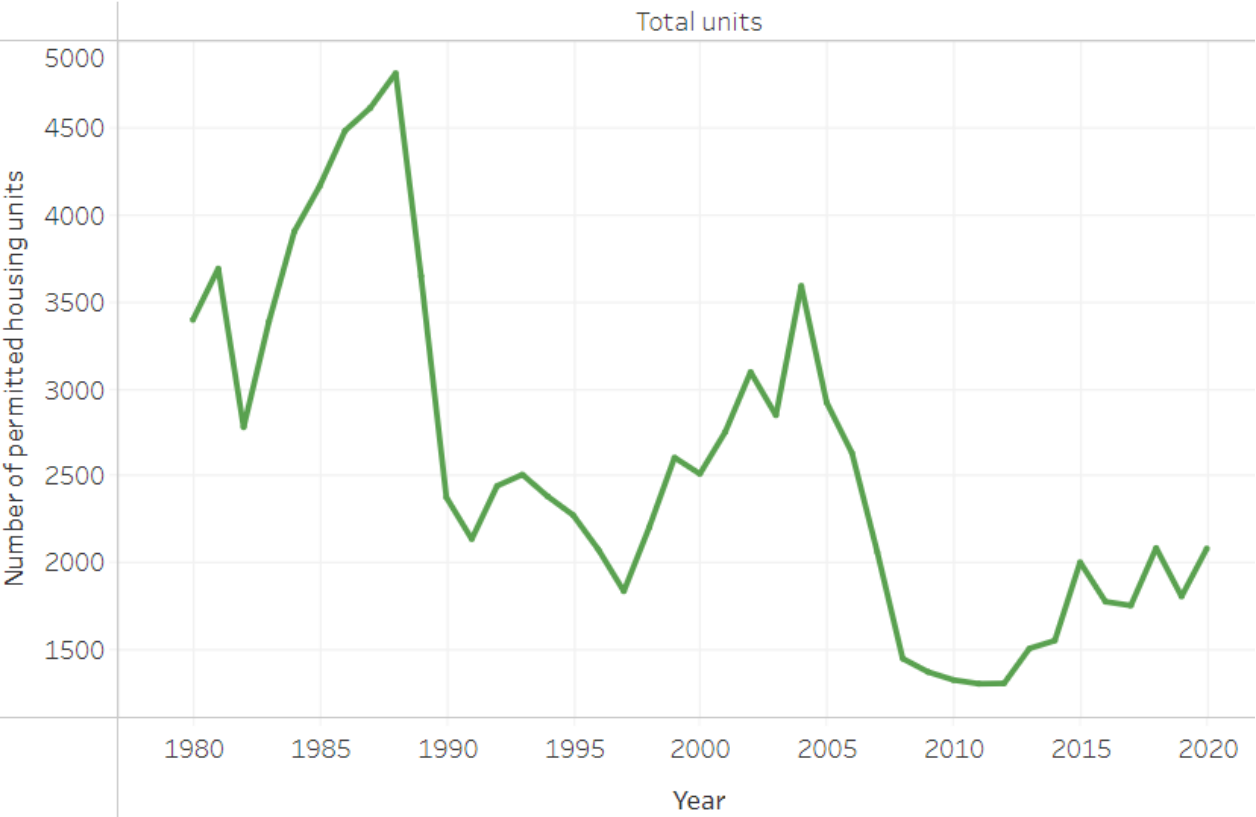
Housing and Community Development

Mission

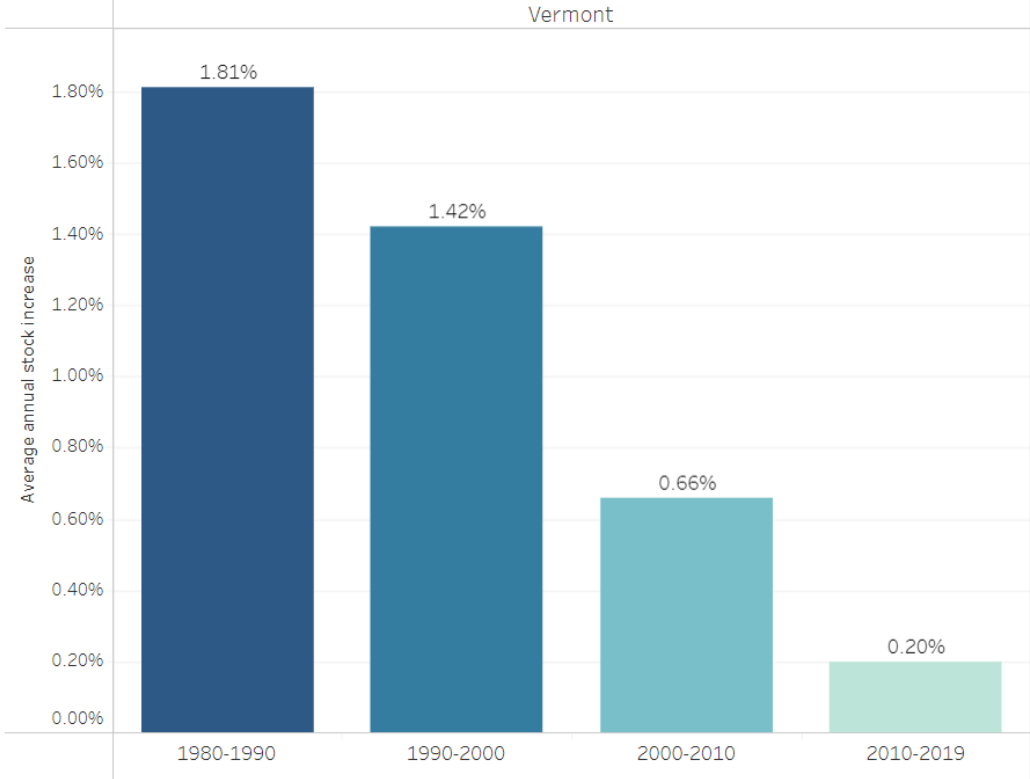
The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) coordinates and oversees the implementation of the state's **housing policy**, works to support **vibrant and resilient communities**, promote **safe and affordable housing** for all, protect the state's **historic resources**, and improve the **quality of life** for Vermonters.

How Did We Get Here?

Number of Building Permits



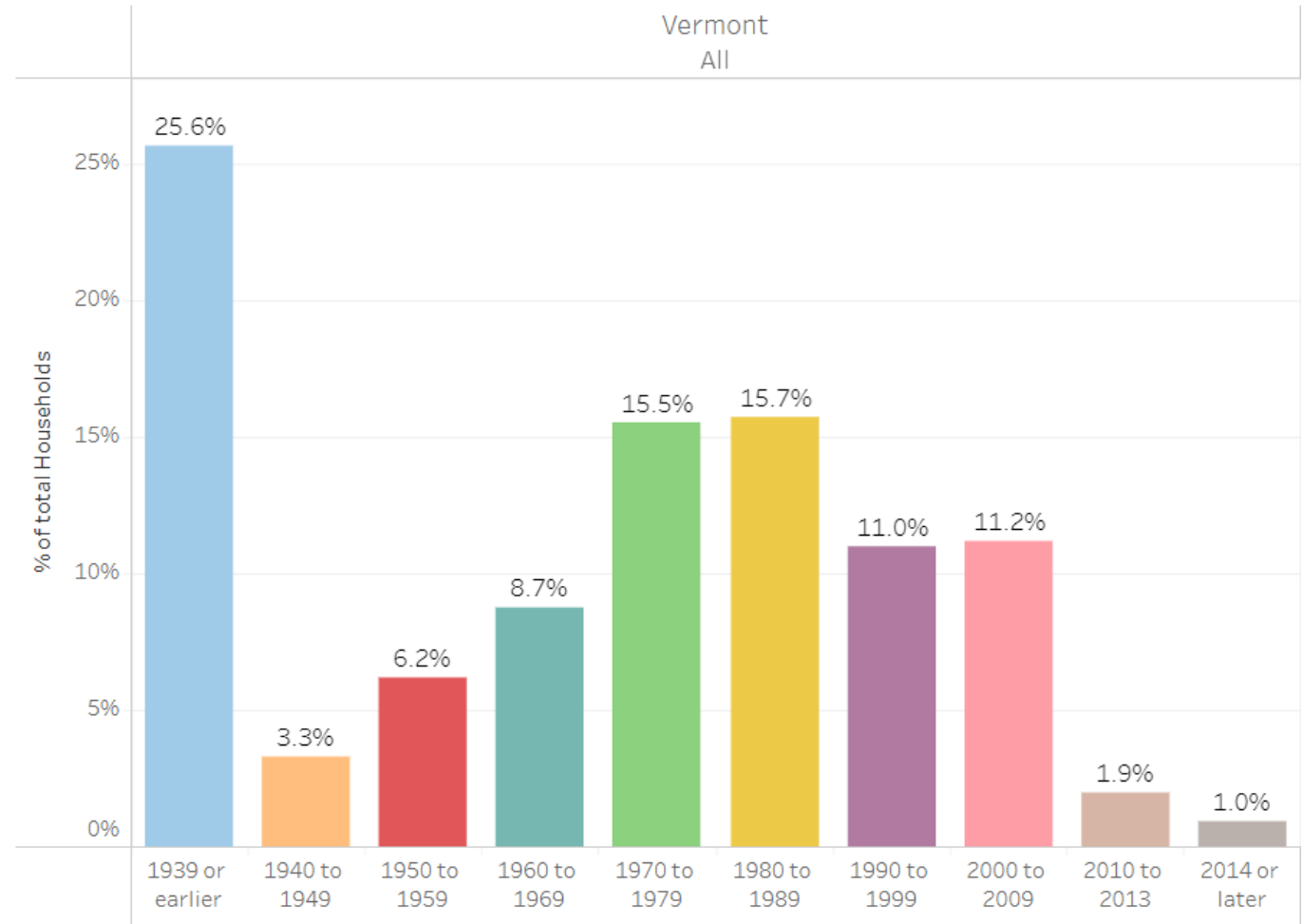
Rate of Change in Housing Supply



How Did We Get Here?

Year structure built


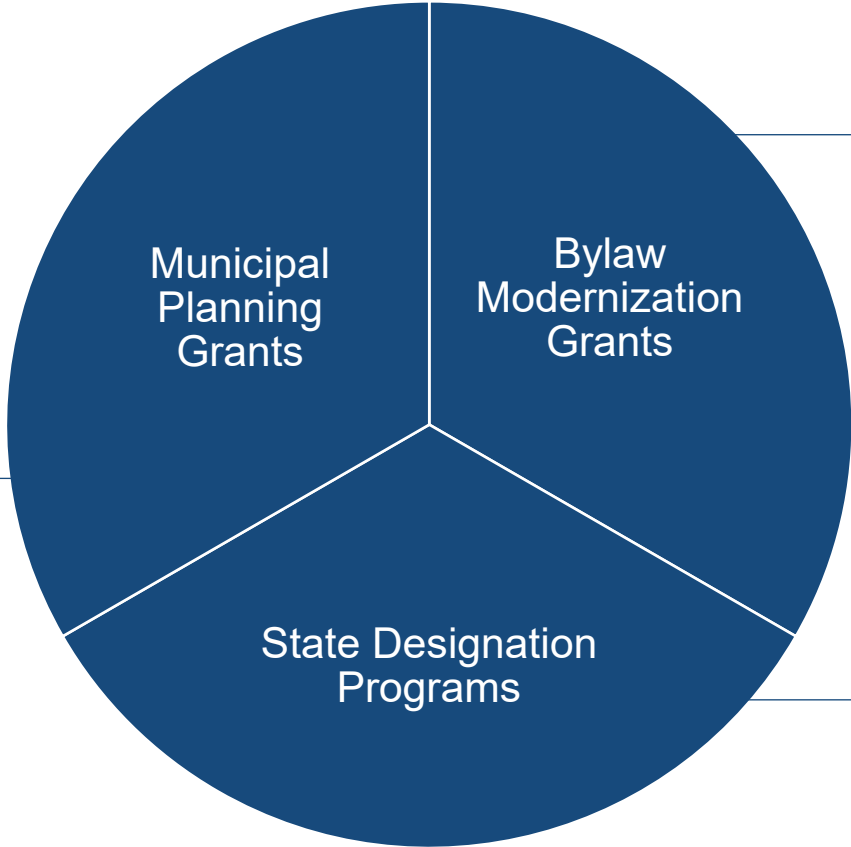
Estimated housing units by year structure built



Community Planning Programs



\$693K
Funding for 24
planning projects
in FY22



\$764K
Funding grants for 53
communities across
the state



23
Designated downtowns
and 222 designated
villages centers across
the state

Community Planning Success



Bris



Vermont Community Development Program



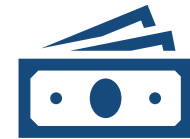
\$6.1M

Awarded to 23 projects
around the state in FY22



234

Affordable Housing units
created in FY22.



\$77M

Total private dollars
leveraged across awarded projects.

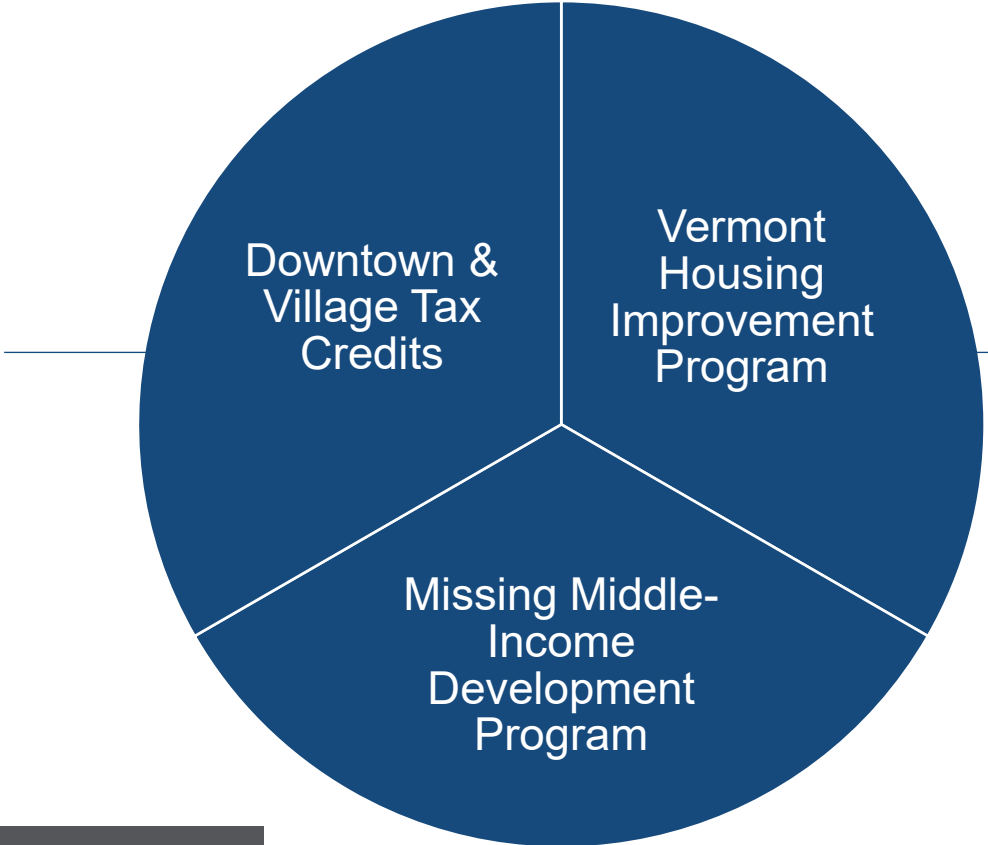
Redevelopment Development Success



Creating New Housing Opportunity



\$14.8M
State tax credits that leveraged \$297M in private investment across 62 towns.



383
Housing units rehabilitated/created. Average Cost to bring unit back online \$31,000

VHIP Production by County

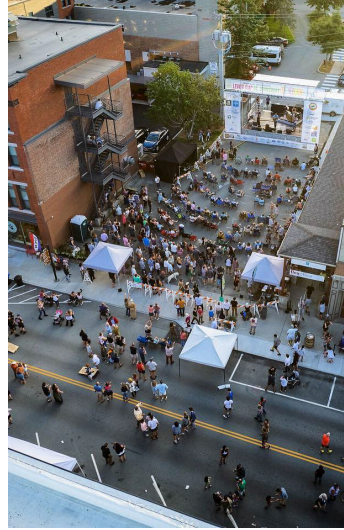
Addison	Bennington	Caledonia	Chittenden	Essex	Franklin	Grand Isle
8	43	53	29	5	46	8

Lamoille	Orange	Orleans	Rutland	Washington	Windham	Windsor
3	17	16	45	37	32	66

* March 2020 – Dec 31, 2022

**We can't let
opportunity
pass us by.**





Let's Keep in Touch!

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