

TO: Senate Appropriations Committee
FROM: Amy Shollenberger
RE: Recovery Housing Funding Request - \$1 million base funding
DATE: April 18, 2023

Thank you for your consideration of the request for \$1million in base funding for the Vermont Foundation of Recovery to support recovery housing across the state. Our \$1M ask is specifically for VFOR to pay our staff to operate the homes as Recovery housing.

As you know, VHCB funds brick and mortar housing projects not services. VFOR often works with nonprofit housing providers to buy buildings, renovate them, and then master lease to us. VHCB funds these nonprofits so they can own the buildings and ensure they are perpetually affordable. Ensuring that our staff are adequately paid will make VFOR a more reliable partner and allow us to be more sustainable in the long run.

Just for clarity, VFOR currently receives the grants listed below from DSU. These have fluctuated in some way or another over time and are always described to us as one time. Our ask is for an **increase** of \$1M base funding. We will still need the grants below and would love them to also be base funding but can appreciate that they are from federal sources so that might not be possible.

- Grant 03420-09275 4.1.22 – 6.30.23 \$30k for temporary removal stabilization (this will probably go away all together in SFY24)
- Grant 03420-09322 7.1.22 – 6.30.23 \$226,399 for operations and management of seven recovery homes while planning to expand in Vermont
- Grant 03420-09534 10.1.22 – 9.30.23 \$150k for vouchers/scholarships for people entering our homes (this will probably go away all together or be greatly reduced in SFY24)

When you add the \$1M base ask to the below grants and divide by the eight homes it comes out to a little under \$176k in funding per house. We think the actual ongoing funding we will need per home is closer to \$180k/year but we rounded to make the ask \$1M in base. People living in the home pay membership dues and as an organization we do our own fundraising, but those things only get us so far.

The homes we operate now are:

- 1) St. Albans (men)
- 2) Essex (men)
- 3) Essex (men) #2
- 4) Essex (women)
- 5) Morrisville (women)
- 6) St. Johnsbury (men)
- 7) Rutland (men)
- 8) Barre (women and women with children) just opened this month.

We have the below projects in the works with brick and mortar funding in place:

- 1) Essex (women) #2
- 2) Bennington (women)

The below communities want VFOR to open homes and we've started planning for what that could look like:

- 1) Randolph
- 2) Windsor

Communities where we would like to open homes in the future:

- 1) Newport
- 2) Middlebury
- 3) Maybe Brattleboro

In a perfect world, there would be a home for men and women in each community. We would also have some homes where parents could have their children with them (like Barre). This would put us somewhere in the 25-30 home range once the full network is complete.

We realize this full vision will take much cooperation and collaboration to realize, and we share it only to show you that we are committed to serving the state for the future, and working with communities to meet the needs that they identify.

Thank you again for your consideration, and we hope you will support the request.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact:

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