

Hello Vermont House and Senate Committee on Appropriations,

Our names are William and Irene Keithcart and we live in Essex. We are writing to request your consideration to provide funding for adults with developmental disabilities that have moderate to high support needs so that they can live with their parents or enter service-supported housing.

In particular, we are asking the State to provide \$10.82 million to fund 3 Pilot grant projects for the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative; Waterbury - 4 units = \$2.2 million, Randolph - 4 units = \$1.2 million, Burlington - 10 units = \$3.92 million, and Monkton (Riverflow 2nd phase) 12 units = \$3.5 million. In addition to an annual development of service-supported housing for adults with I/DD.

With the closing of Brandon in 1993, the State of Vermont has invested minimal money to assist adults with developmental disability and moderate to high support needs.

We understand the challenges of providing services for adults with developmental disabilities in Vermont from friends and colleagues whose adult children currently require these services. As parents, they tirelessly advocate for their grown children, given that extensive school related services are no longer available to them.

We appreciate your consideration to include this request in the FY2025 Budget. It is a critically important part of the continuum of care services these Vermont adults deserve and need. It will enhance their personal lives, their families and our greater Vermont community.

Sincerely,

William and Irene Keithcart