

VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (VCAP)

# Annual Report 2023





“Yesterday we received a message from Dwight, our Weatherization Director, that an 80-year-old client had lost all his food when his refrigerator broke down. Feeding Chittenden was at his home within the day with groceries and a plan for ongoing deliveries. This may seem like a smaller story given all the programming we do and the many services we provide, yet it says everything about the care we take for one person and how each of us can lean on the other in this organization. **We can certainly discuss politics, theory and systems and yet what always remains is the person in front of us and the one next to us.**”

PAUL DRAGON, VCAP President, Executive Director, CVOEO

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES PROVIDED SERVICES TO

**46,236**

Vermonters  
with low income

**24,363**

Vermont  
households

**3,848**

Vermonters  
of color

**1,176**

Vermont  
Veterans

**13,233**

older  
Vermonters

**8,432**

Vermonters  
with disabilities

**3,824**

Vermonters  
employed  
full time

**803**

Vermonters  
experiencing  
homelessness

VCAP COVERS

**100%**

OF VERMONT CITIES,  
TOWNS & PEOPLES

THE VERMONT NEED

**10.4%**

67,295 people/27,813 households  
live in poverty in Vermont

**11.2%**

9,927 Vermont children are  
living in poverty

**6.2%**

4,142 Vermonters of color  
are affected by the conditions  
of poverty

**7.7%**

9,435 Vermonters 65 or over  
are living in poverty



Project to gather  
stories of advocates  
and individuals facing  
homelessness by  
Vermont Folklife.



“Our community is only as strong as how we treat our most vulnerable. We track the need because we don’t want to do a program that just chases the money. All of our programs are there because we see a gap or a need in the community that needs to be addressed, then we will step up to that, versus creating a program because there’s a grant involved. We are here to serve local issues. We always want to talk about the path forward. We helped 417 microbusinesses with \$5,000 grants. 94 of those were startup businesses. The majority of these were women owned.”

*Tom Donahue, CEO, BROCC Community Action*

## THE VERMONT NEED

**18.8%**

of Vermonters have income volatility

**10%**

Vermont Households have Zero Net Worth

**26%**

Vermonters have a Liquid Asset Poverty Rate

**4.2%**

of Vermonters are unemployed

**\$72,431**

is the median income for Vermonters

## VCAP REACH

**612** individuals received coaching to build assets and increase financial skills

**817** individuals enrolled in financial capability classes

**4,696** Vermonter households received tax assistance

**197** New Americans participated in financial coaching, house parties and classes

## VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

**368** Vermonters increased their savings

**527** Vermonters participated in micro-business and development start-up classes

**\$5,194,997** in tax refunds were returned to the Vermont economy through the VITA Program with **\$1,222,054** in tax credits

**“We appreciate how kind everyone is.”**

MARKETPLACE PARTICIPANT



**Head Start, Parent Child Centers**

“We cannot ignore the crisis and delay our action. It is holding, with fierce tenacity, hope and reality in both hands as we innovate, problem solve, and dream. We will grow in unexpected ways through this experience. Our work at Community Action is now more important than it ever has been. Each day brings an invitation for service and peace when called in diverse and challenging ways. May we answer with courage, gratitude and grace. In the words of Emma Lazarus: “We are not free until we all are free.”

*Jenna O’Farrell, Executive Director, Northeast Kingdom Community Action*

**THE VERMONT NEED**

**3,417**  
Vermont children between the ages of 0-4 live in poverty

**13.8%**  
of Vermont children of color live in poverty

Inspirationally, all Vermont children are eligible for free and reduced lunch

**VCAP REACH**

**1,007** Vermont children were served

**1,297** home visits were made

**504** children received dental assessments

**588** children received physicals

**VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT**

**495** Vermont families attended parenting classes addressing barriers to stability

**873** Vermont parents improved family functioning skills

**697** Vermont children became ready for kindergarten



**“To know that someone believes in you and somebody cares, that can be the thing that really gives you that motivation to keep going.”**

PARTICIPANT



**“The ripple effect I think for me is that our community becomes stronger.”**

PARTICIPANT

**Community Ambassadors, Fair Housing, VT Tenants, Mobile Home, Thrift Stores, Community Justice**

“Vermonters experience inconsistent or nonexistent digital connectivity that is a lifeline and a critical component to participating in many aspects of society. While the application process is structured for swift enrollment, a community member shared that since serving time, they ‘hit one roadblock after another.’ With onsite support they gathered the necessary paperwork and enrolled in ACP. This and other stories highlight the “equity” of digital equity. Everyone has a right to be connected.”

Casey Winterson, NEKCA

**THE VERMONT NEED**

**6.1%**

Vermont adults do not have high school diplomas

**1,807**

Vermont youth ages 16–19 are not working or in school

**23,941**

Vermonters are uninsured

**12%**

Vermonters have poor or fair health status

**5.3%**

Vermonters forgo Doctor's visits due to the cost

**VCAP REACH**

**684** Vermonters attended Fair Housing workshops to learn about housing discrimination

**406** Vermonters were provided with low cost clothing and household items

**24** Community offerings were presented in Arabic, French, Nepali, Mai Mai, Spanish, Somali, and Swahili

VCAP Agencies engaged in the effort to make our world safer and more sustainable through participation in the work of the Vermont Climate Council.

**VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT**

**1,331** individuals avoided evictions

**485** Vermonters improved their leadership skills through community engagement

**315** Vermonters improved self-employment skills to provide for themselves and their families

**458** found safety in domestic and sexual assault intervention programs.

**90** individuals found shelter at CVOEO's Voices Against Violence with over **1,832** hotline calls, web-chats and email assistance





**Food Shelves, Community Kitchen Academy, Vermont Everyone Eats, Covid Relief**

“Our excellent staff treats everybody with respect and dignity. We lead by example and advocate for people of low income and those living in poverty. We work collaboratively with other like-minded organizations because undoubtedly, we are better together.”

*Tom Donahue, CEO BROCC Community Action*

“We appreciate the great work that is done by all the Community Action Programs. We are a team. I am grateful for the support we received from the State and for our staff particular in time of transitions.”

*Kathleen Devlin, Interim Executive Director, SEVCA*

**THE VERMONT NEED**

**57,150**

Vermonters are food insecure

**12,040**

Vermont children are food insecure

**27,047**

Vermont households are receiving SNAP benefits

**VCAP REACH**

Community Kitchen Academy employes graduates to feed the hungry

**15,971** Vermonters were assisted in applying for SNAP benefits

**VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT**

**14,008** hot meals were made and distributed to Vermonters in need

**11,541** boxes/bags of groceries were distributed



**“It’s such a relief to know that someone is there in the wings, waiting and ready to help when I fall down.”**

PARTICIPANT



**"I can't thank you enough for all your help. I can't believe everything is finally working, and I am no longer living like I am camping! You have been amazing, and I feel so lucky to have connected with you both."**

PARTICIPANT

**Homelessness, Housing Assistance**

"As difficult as this current situation is, I see hope. I see hope in every victory our staff achieves to help people find a home, a healthy meal, and a job. Across the state the Community Action network served 803 individuals experiencing homelessness to find housing during the pandemic. 337 Vermonters experiencing homelessness were provided emergency housing, and 943 individuals experienced homelessness and were helped to find permanent housing."

*Sue Minter, Executive Director, Capstone Community Action*

**THE VERMONT NEED**

**3.5%**  
vacancy rate for housing

**1,357**  
unsafe and unsanitary occupied Vermont housing units

**76,411**  
renter occupied households in Vermont

**35,740**  
Vermont households paid more than 50% of their income on housing

**VCAP REACH**

VCAP Agencies provided services to the homeless in hotel settings. CVOEO has a Street Outreach Team and is operating a Community Resource Center and 2 homeless Shelters

**1,252** home repairs were provided by Community Action Agencies

**803** individuals experiencing homelessness worked with Community Action Agencies to find permanent housing

**VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT**

**337** Vermonters experiencing homelessness were provided emergency housing

**943** Vermonters were helped to find permanent housing

**482** Vermonters received security deposits

**1,143** Vermonters received rental assistance





**Weatherization, Emergency Home Heating, Crisis Fuel, Warmth**

The largest barrier to low-income home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. There are also many other structural issues present in Vermont’s older housing stock which can prohibit weatherization such as leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues. Historically, these issues would “defer” weatherization of a home indefinitely. **Vermont’s Weatherization Program has adopted a “zero deferral” policy in recognition that addressing non-energy related issues that otherwise prevent weatherization is a critical equity policy.**

*FY’23 Report to the Vermont Legislature*

**THE VERMONT NEED**

**19%**  
of annual income spent on energy costs by Vermonters with low income

Vermont has some of the oldest housing stock in the nation

**11.8%**  
of adult Vermonters suffer from asthma

**VCAP REACH**

**1,139** units/homes were weatherized by Community Action Agencies

**\$1,688,842** was spent on labor, materials and replacement systems through the Emergency Heating Repair and Replacement program

**\$791,869** was raised in the heating season for the Warmth Program, which is sustained entirely by donations

**VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT**

**7,651** Vermonters were served through the Crisis fuel Program for short term emergency assistance

**1,460** Vermont households have improved energy efficiency and energy burden reduction



**“The follow-up to the completed work was outstanding. I asked many questions and was never feeling that I was a bother... thanks for this incredible opportunity and to feel safe that my home is environmentally sound.”**

PARTICIPANT

# VCAP LEADERSHIP



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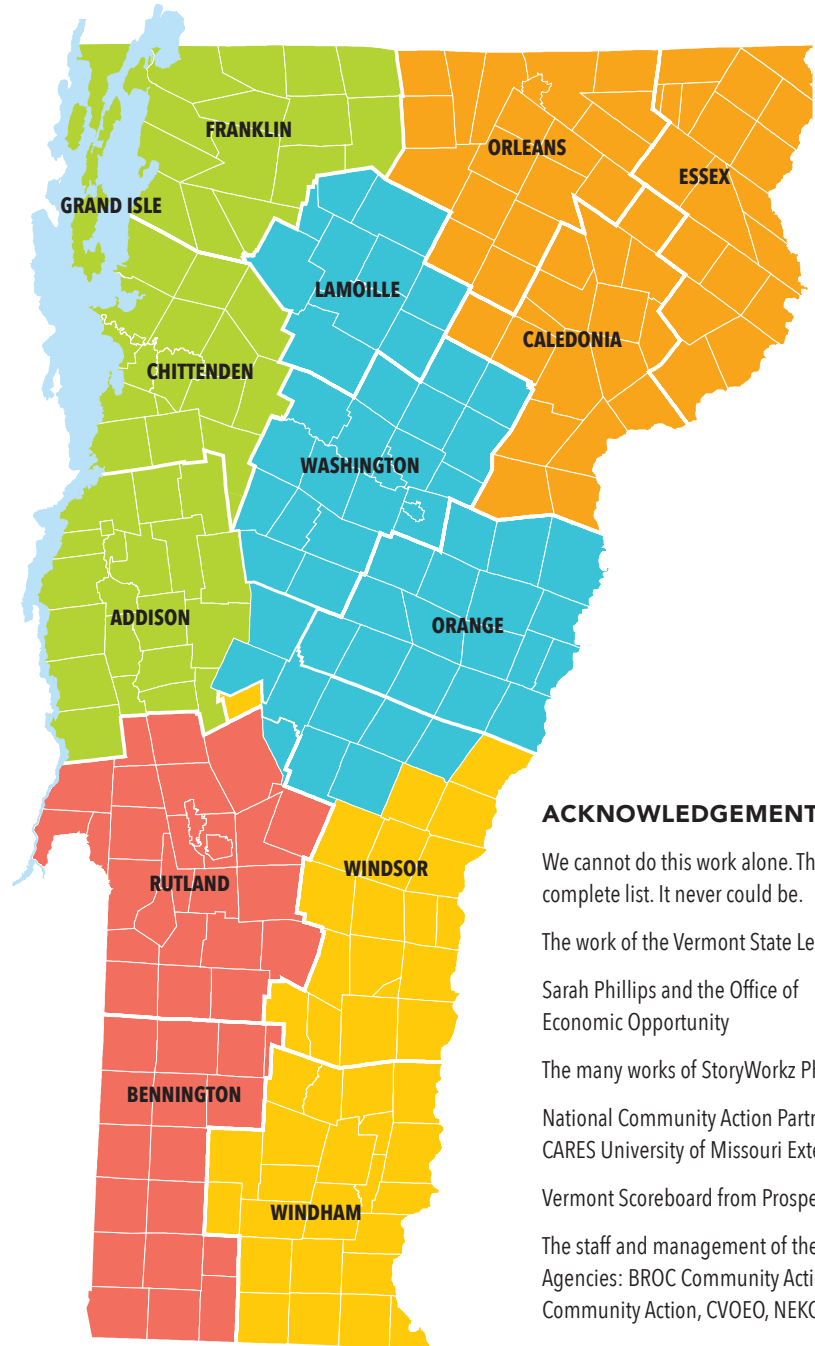
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We cannot do this work alone. This is not a complete list. It never could be.

The work of the Vermont State Legislature Sarah Phillips and the Office of Economic Opportunity

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Vermont Scoreboard from Prosperity Now

The staff and management of the five VCAP Agencies: BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION, Capstone Community Action, CVOEO, NEKCA and SEVCA

