

My name is Collins Twing. I am a parent in the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI), along with over 100 parents who have an adult children with an intellectual/development disability (I/DD) and need a permanent service supported home in which to live.

Please support DDHI's request for \$10.82 million for the implementation of three pilot planning projects begun by Act 186. Since closing Brandon in 1993, there has been virtually no money invested by the State in service supported housing for adults with I/DD, and the State now needs to provide this funding for service supported housing for the I/DD community. In addition, the State of Vermont failed to meet their obligations under Federal Medicaid Rules, and now have 2 Corrective Action Plans to demonstrate that HCBS recipients have true choice, including choices in housing. The three Act 186 Pilot Planning Grants are contained in the latest Corrective Action Plan, yet funding for building the Planning Grant projects is not in the budget. The requested \$10.82 million is to fund the building of these Act 186 Pilot Projects.

Please also support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities . The VTDDC 2023 Housing Brief commissioned by Act 186 found that there is an immediate need for 602 units.

This is by far the MOST vulnerable population, yet they have been receiving the least attention and services from the state. This population tends to NOT have a voice at the table.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget request.

Sincerely,
Collins Twing
Chelsea, VT