



Contact: Frank Knaack
Executive Director
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April 11, 2024

Re: FY 25 Budget Requests

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

Vermont has a housing and homelessness crisis. To solve this crisis, Vermont must commit to the sustained, long-term revenue generation and investments envisioned in H.829 while also providing the resources necessary to ensure sufficient emergency shelter while we get there.

As your committee works on the FY25 Budget, we urge you to support the following investments that were included in the House-passed H.829 and FY 25 budget (H.833):

Housing Programs

- \$22,106,740: To ensure full statutory funding for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (from H.883)
- \$7.3 million: Permanently affordable rental housing, homeownership and shelter programs through Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (from H.829)
- \$1 million: Vermont Housing Improvement Program (from H.829)
- \$1 million: Land Access Opportunity Board (from H.829)
- \$900 thousand: State Refugee Office (from H.829)
- \$20 million: GA emergency housing waterfall funds (from H.883)
- \$1 million: Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program (from H.883)
- Reallocate unobligated ARPA dollars to:
 - \$30 million: to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for housing development (from H.883). HHAV supports adding shelter development as an eligible use of ARPA dollars through the VHCB allocation.
 - \$25 million: to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (from H.883)

Housing Services and Supports

- \$400 thousand: CVOEO Rental Stabilization (from H.829)
- \$1.025 million: Vermont Legal Aid tenant representation pilot in Lamoille and Windsor counties (from H.829)
- \$2.5 million: Vermont State Housing Authority for the Rent Arrears Assistance Fund (from H.829)
- \$700 thousand: Resident services program to help tenants succeed in housing (from H.829)

Shelter Creation and Operations

- Set AWC by statute as a seasonal protection between November 15, 2024 - April 15, 2025 (from H.883)
- \$2.7 million: Office of Economic Opportunity to support shelter operations (from H.829)
- \$36 million: HOP base funding (from H.883)
- \$11 million: GA base funding (from H.883)
- \$16.5 million: GA one-time funding (from H.883)
- \$20 million: GA emergency housing contingency funds (from H.883). HHAV Supports moving this from the contingency funds to the core budget.
- Additional revenue request: \$6 million for GA fundingⁱ

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We would be happy to discuss any of these items at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Frank Knaack
Executive Director

ⁱ This request is to ensure the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program receives the necessary funding through the FY 25 fiscal year to continue to provide the over 1,500 households – about 2,500 Vermonters – with emergency shelter (without any maximum number of days). It will cost \$50 million to meet the need of sheltering approximately 1,500 households at an average rate of \$90/night for FY 25. The House-passed budget includes \$7.5 million in GA base funding, \$16.5 million in GA one-time funding, and \$20 million in GA emergency housing contingency funds (\$44 million total), leaving a gap of \$6 million to meet the need. We request an additional \$6 million appropriation to meet this need. This is not an ultimate solution, but provides the time needed to develop additional shelter capacity and what's really the permanent solution: more affordable housing.