



Contact: Frank Knaack
Executive Director
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Dear Senator Kitchel and Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

The Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont (HHAV) represents a merger of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition and the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness. We represent over 60 member organizations that work to meet the needs of vulnerable Vermonters and advocate for effective policies to ensure that Vermonters have safe, stable, affordable homes and if homelessness occurs, it is brief, rare, and non-recurring.

As your committee works on your version of the FY24 BAA, we provide the following:

We support the inclusion by the House of \$13,204,802 General Fund for emergency housing needs through the end of fiscal year 2024. Coupled with the \$75 cap on nightly per household hotel/motel costs, this would cover the costs of providing interim housing for all of the households currently housed in the GA program. In addition, the BAA now has language to explicitly clarify that all households protected under the Adverse Weather Conditions Policy and the “June Cohort” of the GA emergency Housing program are to be provided temporary emergency housing through June 30, 2024. We support this new language.

In addition, HHAV urges the Senate to add additional funding to ensure longer-term solutions to Vermont’s housing and homelessness crisis, including:

- **\$50 million** for VHCB to both fund the existing pipeline of permanently affordable housing projects and provide a clear signal to the permanently affordable housing community that they should continue to pursue new projects. **The House passed BAA added \$4.5 million for VHCB, with the addition of the potential for an additional \$30 million if sufficient ARPA funds are available after November 15.**
- **\$25 million** for the VHFA’s Homeownership Development program (the Missing Middle program). This would fund approximately 135-145 homes. **The House passed BAA includes \$4.5 million for this program, with the addition of the potential for an additional \$25 million if sufficient ARPA funds are available after November 15.**
- **\$2.5 million** for the rental arrears fund which the House included. **The House passed BAA includes \$2.5 million for the rental arrears fund. We urge the Senate to keep this appropriation.**
- **\$1 million** for the tenant representation pilot through Vermont Legal Aid. **The House passed BAA includes \$1.025 million for the tenant representation pilot program. We urge the Senate to keep this appropriation.**
- **\$500K** for rental housing stabilization through the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity. **The House passed BAA includes \$400k for rental housing stabilization. We urge the Senate to keep this appropriation.**

Thank you for considering our positions. I would be happy to meet to discuss these or any other proposals.

Sincerely,

Frank Knaack
Executive Director