

VERMONT ASSOCIATION  
of  
PUBLIC HOUSING DIRECTORS

155 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 229-9232

December 23, 2013

Representative Martha Heath  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5501

Senator Jane Kitchel  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5501

Dear Ms. Heath and Ms. Kitchel:

The eight local public housing authorities (PHAs) and the Vermont State Housing Authority administer Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Programs that provide rental assistance to over seven thousand very low income households across the state. Last spring we provided you with a chart showing the number of units authorized and the number actually in use.

I am writing again to make you aware of the continued loss of rental assistance resources in Vermont. While the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 may restore some funding in calendar year 2014, this does not mean that Vermont PHAs will immediately be able to issue vouchers to those households. Many of us have operated with deficits to avoid terminating families from our programs. We will have to recover those losses before we can issues new vouchers.

Attached is an updated chart which shows the number of vouchers administered by each housing authority and the actual number of vouchers under lease as of December 1, 2013. The number of authorized vouchers is higher than on the earlier chart due to small increases in vouchers for the Burlington and Vermont State Housing Authorities and the inclusion of 220 Mainstream vouchers administered by the Vermont State Housing Authority that were omitted from the earlier chart. The number of vouchers in use is the actual number. The funding amounts are estimates based on the payment standards in the counties where the vouchers are in use. As you can see, the situation has been getting worse since our last report.

This continued loss in rental subsidy resources will have an impact on many Agency of Human Services programs, including homelessness assistance and the Reach Up program.

As you consider program initiatives and funding for FY2015, we encourage you to consider ways to mitigate this loss of federal assistance, including a closer link between the short-term state rental assistance program and long-term PHA rental assistance.



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Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. We would be happy to discuss this matter in more detail with you or other members of your committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jo Ann Troiano".

Jo Ann Troiano, Chair

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. Douglas A. Racine, Secretary  
Vermont Agency of Human Services