

VERMONT ASSOCIATION
of
PUBLIC HOUSING DIRECTORS

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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 issue 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

SECTION 8 VOUCHER REDUCTION IN VERMONT - CY2013

Updated 12/9/2013

Housing Authority	HUD Authorized Vouchers	Vouchers Supported with CY2013 Funding	Vouchers Not Used due to <u>inadequate funding and sequestration</u>	
Barre	185	133	52	28.1%
Bennington	207	168	39	18.8%
Brattleboro	187	135	52	27.8%
Burlington	1836	1715	121	6.6%
Montpelier	122	104	18	14.8%
Rutland	194	181	13	6.7%
Saint Albans	85	71	14	16.5%
Springfield	61	51	10	16.4%
Vermont State	3842	3307	535	13.9%
Winooski	320	263	57	17.8%
TOTALS	7039	6128	911	12.9%
ANNUAL FUNDING	Needed to Support Authorized Vouchers*	Provided to PHAs CY2013*	<u>Funding Shortfall - CY2013*</u>	
	\$50,985,000	\$44,796,000	\$6,189,000	

*Approximate

The difference in total vouchers from the previous chart is due to the inclusion of 220 Mainstream vouchers operated by VSHA that were inadvertently omitted and 27 new vouchers received since the last chart was published (7 for Burlington, and 20 VASH vouchers for VSHA)