

Sec. X. HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS STUDY

(a) On or before September 1, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall convene a working group including individuals with lived experience, the local and statewide Continuums of Care, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to review, develop, and provide recommendations on Vermont's homelessness response and prevention programs, governance system, and their success measures that incorporates recent and relevant assessments and statewide plans.

(b) On or before January 15, 2024, the working group shall submit their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services, House Committee on General and Housing, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs on how Vermont can achieve the federal goal to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025, as reported in The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, including strategies to:

- (i) address racial and other disparities among people experiencing homelessness;
- (ii) justify state and local action in research, quantitative and qualitative data, and the perspectives of people who have or are experiencing homelessness;
- (iii) break down silos between state, local, and tribal governments and organizations; public, private, and philanthropic sectors; and people who have or are experiencing homelessness;
- (iv) increase the supply of and access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing and tailored supports for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- (v) improve response systems to meet the urgent crisis of homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness; and
- (vi) reduce the risk of housing instability for households most likely to experience homelessness.