## Vermont Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program

The Federal Bipartisan Policy Center's Housing Commission, in examining the lessons learned from the recent housing crisis, noted that homeownership can "produce powerful economic, social, and civic benefits that serve the individual homeowner, the larger community, and the nation." Supporting more Vermonters to become homeowners allows them to an opportunity to improve and invest in their neighborhoods, and become a stable member of their community's life and workforce. Homeownership, even with the recent decline in housing values, has continued to be the most reliable source of individual wealth accumulation and equity for the future. However, with increasing student debt, first time homebuyers are often delayed in saving for the increased fees and down payment necessary to purchase and need support to achieve the their homeownership opportunity.