

Office of Economic Opportunity

Partnering to develop local
solutions to end poverty



Office of Economic Opportunity

We work with more than **50 community partners** who work with more than **80,000 low income Vermonters** to help them meet basic needs in times of crisis, build skills and connect to resources to make their way out of poverty.

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Our Mission

Working in partnership with the private sector, community-based organizations, government agencies, and others to

- Increase self-sufficiency of Vermonters
- Strengthen Vermont communities
- Eliminate the causes & symptoms of poverty

How We Work

- Manage programs and grants
- Training and technical assistance
- Identify & develop resources for communities
- Promote evidence- and research-based approaches

Poverty & Homelessness in VT

\$24,300

US Federal Poverty Guideline, Family of 4 (100% FPL 2017)

\$43,947

“Housing Wage” to afford 2 bedroom apartment in Vermont
(Out of Reach Report, 2016)

\$81,799

Vermont Livable Wage (2 working adults, 2 children)



Poverty & Homelessness in VT

About 1 in 8 Vermonters living below the poverty level (12%) – that's about 72,000 people.

Nearly 1 in 3 Vermonters are low income (30.4% < 200% FPL) – includes those working, but often not making enough to get by.

About 1 in 4 Vermont families are “asset poor” (27%), not enough to get by at the poverty level for 3 months without income.

Community Services

Community Action Agencies

- Broad anti-poverty charge: Change Agents
- Getting people out of poverty – connecting to crisis resources and beyond
- Making sure low income people and low income communities are at the helm of their own destiny
- Leverage Resources
(\$3.4 million → \$54.7 million)



Asset Building

Helping low income Vermonters to save and invest in their future

- Individual Development Accounts
- Micro Business Development Prog.
- Integrating Financial Empowerment



Savings and assets are the building blocks for economic mobility and security

Income helps people get by, Assets help people get ahead

Homeless Assistance Programs

Help for people in crisis to find or keep stable, safe housing

Housing Opportunity Program:

- Year-round and seasonal emergency homeless shelters;
- day shelters;
- domestic violence shelters;
- transitional housing for youth & vets;
- homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs

Family Supportive Housing

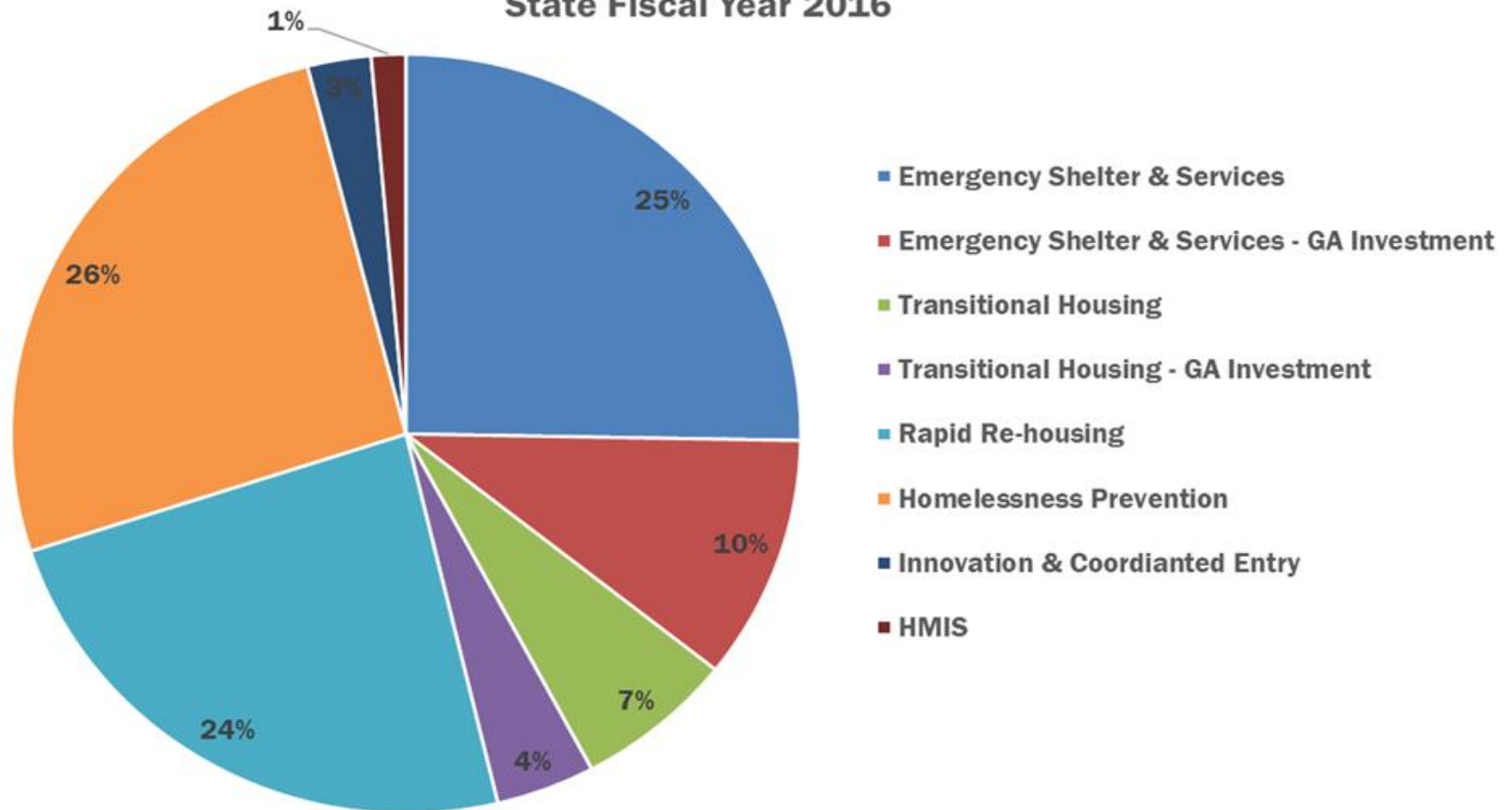


On any given night,
486 people are staying
in a shelter,
including 114 children

Last year 4,143 people
were sheltered:
3,263 adults & 880 children

Housing Opportunity Grant Program

Housing Opportunity Grant Program
including General Assistance Investments
State Fiscal Year 2016



Family Supportive Housing

- Supportive housing for families experiencing homelessness
- 7 community providers, ~100 families currently
- Blend of general fund and Medicaid
- Program components;
 - Permanent housing (MOU with housing providers)
 - Intensive, home-based services (small caseloads)
 - Financial empowerment support (banking, credit, savings)
- Point in time: 90% of participating families are stably housed
- 20-30% of families with Family Services; 60-80% with Reach Up

Weatherization

Warmer, safer and more energy efficient homes.

- **Energy audit** to identify where improvements can be made
- **Energy renovation** (e.g., insulation, sealing up drafts, improving ventilation)
- **Coaching** on energy saving best practices
- **Referrals** for health & human services
- **Heating system** upgrades & replacements



Weatherization – OEO's Role

- Provides grants to 5 nonprofits, who hire crews who complete the work
- Provides program guidance and oversight
- Provides training and technical assistance
- Monitors, and conducts quality assurance
- Promotes best practice along the way

Weatherization Initiatives

- One Touch Program
- Vermiculite
- Healthy Homes
- Efficiency Coaching

Our Partners – Our Impact

- 774 homes weatherized last year
- 400+ faulty heating systems repaired or replaced at no charge
- 6,000+ households received housing help, including more than 1,500 whose homelessness was prevented
- 129+ businesses started and grew, creating 90 FTE jobs
- 4,143 people without housing were sheltered
- 50,000+ people received food when they could not afford groceries
- 59 low income Vermonters invested \$141,453 in their first home, business or higher education
- Prepared taxes for 3,500+ households to make sure they receive all credits & refunds due, accessing over \$4.6 million in refunds

Office of Economic Opportunity

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Rey Garofano

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