

Vermont Agency of Human Services Summary Housing Outcomes From State Fiscal Year 2016

The Agency of Human Services strives to improve the health and wellbeing of Vermonters today and tomorrow and to protect those among us who are unable to protect themselves.

All AHS departments recognize the value of stable housing in the lives of the people we serve. Addressing the housing needs of Vermonters today and tomorrow requires options ranging from prevention strategies, emergency responses, and transitional programs, to longer-term housing solutions (such as supportive services, rental subsidies, and greater access to housing). Our departments provide housing services directly and through partnerships with dozens of local non-profit organizations in all regions of Vermont.

The following summaries highlight activities from AHS housing programs over the past fiscal year, reflecting this multi-pronged approach to housing stability.

Independent Living

Expanding Community Opportunities for all Ages

211 home-seekers and home-providers were matched through **Home Share** programs, supported by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

67 Vermonters with physical disabilities made accessibility modifications to their homes through the **Home Access Program**, supported by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

4,437 seniors and persons with disabilities maintained independent living situations with services funded by AHS programs and coordinated by the **Support and Services at Home (SASH)** program.

58 young adults, who had formerly been in DCF custody, achieved safe, stable housing with flexible financial assistance from the Department for Children and Families' **Youth Development Program (YDP)**.

Emergency Shelter & Services

Providing a Safe, Emergency Response

4,208 Vermonters found safe emergency shelter supported by **Housing Opportunity Program** grants from the Department for Children and Families.

At times when emergency shelters were full, the department's **General Assistance Temporary Shelter** program paid for **3,834** homeless households to stay in motels and **384** households to stay at Harbor Place.

168 Reach Up participants were sheltered in emergency or transitional housing supported by the Department's **Reach Up Housing Grants**.

96% successfully transitioned to safe/stable housing

Rental Subsidies

Targeting Financial Assistance to Support Stability

Approximately **145** formerly homeless families (182 adults and 277 children) moved into affordable housing with a **Vermont Rental Subsidy (VRS)** from the Department for Children and Families. Among families who exited the program during the year, **88%** successfully transitioned to a federal subsidy or increased income and did not require subsidy.

175 persons with serious mental illness accessed permanent affordable housing with a **Subsidy and Care** voucher from the Department of Mental Health. **85%** maintained stable housing for at least one year.

335 adults with mental illness found affordable housing with financial assistance from the **CRT Housing Support Fund** in the Department of Mental Health. **95%** maintained stable housing for at least one year following assistance.

Weatherization

Improving the Efficiency of Vermont Homes

774 Vermont households weatherized their home to reduce costs and increase thermal efficiency, comfort and safety through the **Weatherization Assistance Program** in the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity.

Supportive Housing

Customizing Services for Tenants at Higher Risk

88 formerly homeless families moved into housing and received intensive case management supports through the **Family Supportive Housing (FSH)** program in the Department for Children and Families. **90%** of families remained stably housed at year-end.

177 individuals were housed in the community and receiving supportive services through the **Pathways to Housing** program, supported by the Department of Mental Health. **88%** of participants who were enrolled maintained stable housing at 12 months.

Transitional Housing

Creating Pathways from Institution to Community

1,144 offenders were housed in the community and receiving service supports through the **Transitional Housing** program in the Department of Corrections. Approximately **33%** of participants successfully transitioned to independent living during the year.

455 people with substance abuse disorders received short-term sober housing and recovery supports through the **Transitional Housing** program in the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. **53%** of participants who exited the program successfully transitioned to stable housing.

Homelessness Prevention

...and Rapidly Re-Housing the Homeless

5,002 Vermonters in **1,426** households received homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing services and assistance through **Housing Opportunity Program (HOP)** grants from the DCF Office of Economic Opportunity.

71% of households at-risk of homelessness had their housing stabilized within 28 days and **83%** of these households subsequently maintained their housing for at least 90 days following assistance.

51% of homeless households were housed within 28 days and **88%** of these households maintained their housing for at least 90 days following assistance.

334 Vermont families participating in the Reach Up program who were homeless or precariously-housed received additional housing case management support through **Reach Up Housing Grants** in the Department for Children and Families.

38% were re-housed or stabilized within 28 days of being identified as homeless or at-risk.

Of families re-housed or stabilized, **74%** remained stably housed for at least 90 days after assistance.

2016

Other Developments from the Past Year

Vermont Records Dramatic Reduction in Homeless

Following a small (2%) reduction in homelessness in 2015, Vermont recorded a statistically-significant 28% reduction in the number of Vermonters experiencing homelessness. This improvement – which was noted across all populations and in all regions of the state during the one-night point in time count in January – represented the single largest percentage reduction of any U.S. state.

Leadership and Action on Ending Homelessness

In the spring of 2016, the Governor signed an executive order setting a goal for developers receiving public funds for affordable housing to make 15% of their housing portfolio available to Vermonters experiencing homelessness. The first round of reporting, in December 2016, indicated that a number of Vermont's housing organizations have already hit this goal and others are well on their way.

Leveraging State Funds to Bring Success to Scale

After demonstrating successful housing stability outcomes for multiple years, the Family Supportive Housing program began drawing down Medicaid funding to prepare for expansion to unserved areas.