



# **Update on Coronavirus Relief Fund Housing Program**

House Committee on  
General, Housing and Military Affairs

August 28, 2020

**Act 115 of 2020 (S.350) appropriated \$23 M  
and Act 137 (H.966) appropriated \$9 M  
for a total of \$32 M**

To VHCB for “housing and facilities necessary to provide safe shelter and assistance for persons who are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness, or who have suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 crisis, in order to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.”

# Guidelines and Procedures

To use CRF for capital for two purposes:

- I. To help secure and/or rehabilitate housing for 150-200 households. Funds targeted to areas of highest need based on data from the Agency of Human Services and to areas with a lack of available housing.
- II. To assist existing shelters to make building modifications necessary to comply with CDC guidance related to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in congregate housing.

# Timeline and Process

Letters of Interest Due June 23. Received \$56 M in requests

Applications Due July 10. 29 proposals for \$39 M invited

VHCB Board Awarded \$30.03 M to 26 projects on August 6

\$9 million from Act 137 fully committed

\$1.97 million of \$23 million from Act 115 available

Applications for two additional projects requesting \$4.5 to \$5.5 M to be considered by the Board on September 16



Modular home, Bradford MHP



Pine Street, Rutland



Applegate, Bennington

# New and Rehabilitated Housing Safer and Healthier Shelters

---

- Secure and rehabilitate housing for Vermonters experiencing homelessness in 17 communities.
- 212 new apartments and emergency beds to be created statewide in areas of greatest need.
- Improvements to 13 homeless shelters that together provide 251 beds, reducing the risk of spreading the coronavirus and enabling compliance with public health protocols.

# A Critical Element of the State's Overall Response to COVID-Related Housing Needs



Good Samaritan Haven  
Barre

Support services and rental assistance working with the Agency of Human Services, service and shelter providers, and state and local housing authorities.

Partnerships between affordable housing developers, shelters, and social service agencies to facilitate transitions for households from temporary stays in motel rooms and shelters to more permanent housing.

Congress St. Apartments, St. Albans



# Construction Resumes

New affordable homes available soon in communities across the state - St. Albans, Vergennes, Lyndonville, Burlington, St. Johnsbury, and Shaftsbury. Many with apartments dedicated to those experiencing homelessness.

Vergennes Community Housing



Olivia Place, Lyndonville



Photo Credit: Sylvie Vidrine



In July, Hussam and Hazar Alhallak-Mansour moved their family into a new home on Crescent Street in Rutland, built by Habitat for Humanity.

Providing affordable housing is one of the best ways to make our communities welcoming and inclusive.

**Gus Seelig**

Executive Director

**Jen Hollar**

Director of Policy and Special Projects

