

# Homeless Assistance

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Sarah Phillips, Director  
Office of Economic Opportunity



# Agency of Human Services

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Independent Living

Expanding Community Opportunities for All Ages

Affordable Housing

Targeting Financial Assistance to Support Stability

Transitional Housing

Opening Paths from Institution to Community

Emergency Shelter

Providing a Safe, Emergency response

Supportive Housing

Customizing Services for Tenants at Higher Risk

Homelessness Prevention

...and Rapid Re-housing for people who become Homeless

# Homeless Assistance – How it All Works

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## State Programs & Resources

- Housing Opportunity Grant Program
- General Assistance Emergency Housing (Motel Vouchers)
- Family Supportive Housing
- Vermont Rental Subsidy
- Other State-funded/AHS housing programs (not homeless specific)

## Structure & Process

- Funding
- Vermont Council on Homelessness
  - Vermont Plan to End Homelessness
- Continuums of Care (CoC)
  - Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
    - Local “CoCs”
  - Chittenden Homeless Alliance
- Coordinated Entry
  - Access, Assessment, Referrals, Prioritization
- HMIS/Point in Time Count

# Other AHS Housing Programs *(not homeless)*

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- Department of Mental Health
  - Subsidy + Care
- Department of Corrections
  - Transitional and Re-entry Housing
- Department of Aging & Independent Living
  - SASH
- Department of Health – ADAP
  - Sober Houses (e.g., Phoenix)

# 2018 Point-In-Time Count

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*A one-night, unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness*  
917 Households – 1,291 People

82 persons were Unsheltered (6% of total persons)

12% Chronically Homeless

774 Single Adults (60% of total persons)

8.8% Veterans

292 Children (23% of total persons)

12% Fleeing Domestic or  
Sexual Violence

169 Families with Children (39.5% of total persons)

11% People of Color

126 Youth (ages 12-24) (9.8% of persons)

43% Female

6 Minors & 120 Ages 18-24

56.4% Male

26 Parenting Youth HH (15.4% of all families)

.6% Transgender

# Vermont's Continuums of Care (CoC)

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- Chittenden Homeless Alliance
  - <http://www.cchavt.org/>
- Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
  - “Balance of State” (BoS)
  - <http://helpingtohousevt.org/>
  - 11 local Continuums of Care under the Coalition umbrella
  - VSHA is not the CoC, but they play multiple roles within the BoS



# Local Continuum of Care: Planning & Collaboration



# A Homeless “Continuum of Care”?

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*Housing crisis response system with pathways to permanent housing & links to mainstream resources*

- **Outreach**
- **Assessment** to identify service and housing needs and provide a link to the appropriate level of both
- **Prevention & Diversion**
- **Emergency Shelter:** immediate, temporary, safe place to sleep
- **Transitional Housing,** where appropriate
- **Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing**



# The Reality

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- Limited resources
- Definitions: [\(Literal\) Homeless](#), [At-Risk of Homelessness](#), [McKinney Vento definition](#)
- Targeting resources to those with the most severe service needs/most likely to become literally homeless (again)
- Gaps in the system of care
- Waiting lists
- Housing costs compared to wages
- Vacancy rates – a statewide problem

# Emergency Shelter

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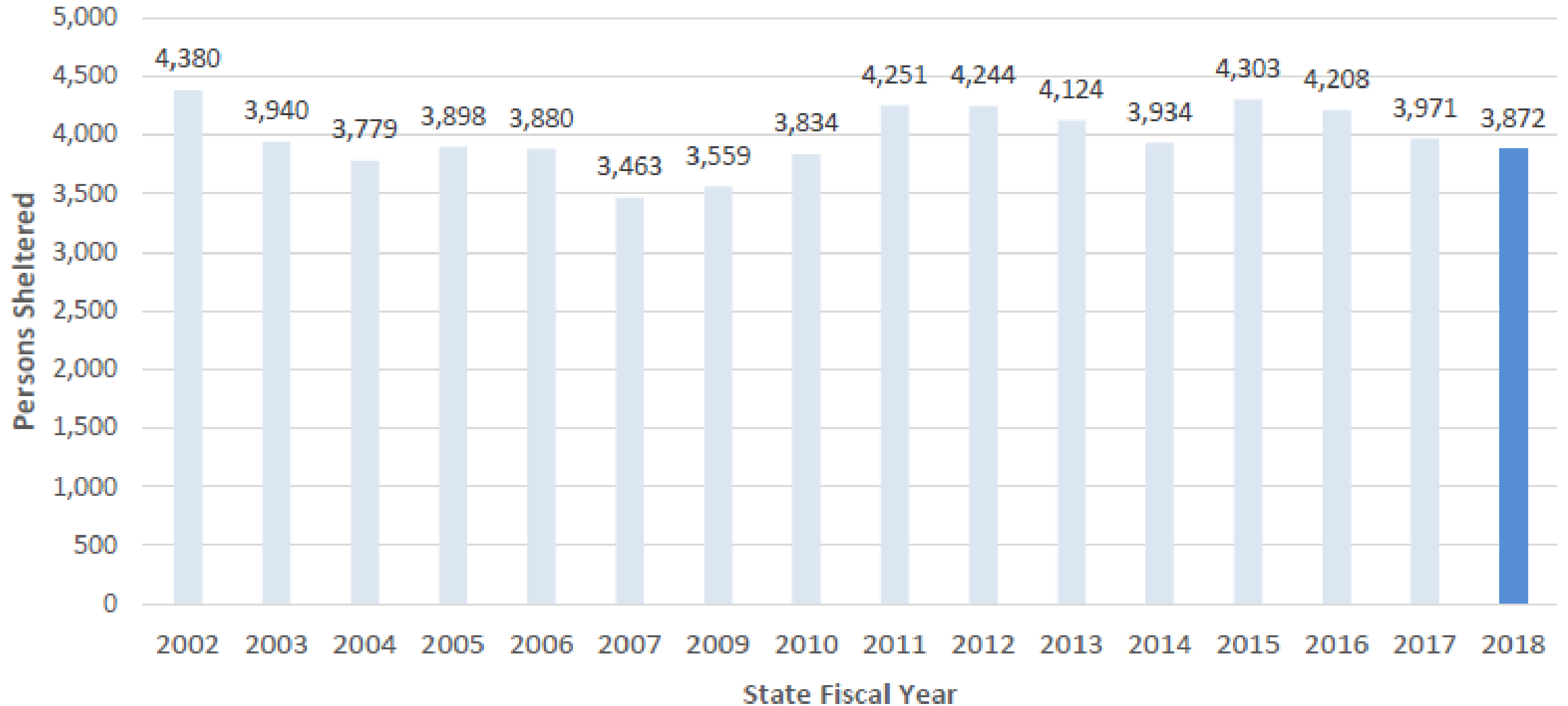
By design, intended to be temporary, and to help guests move into permanent housing as quickly as possible

Variety of forms: congregate facility, motels, seasonal “warming” shelter, scattered site apartments (\*best for families\*)

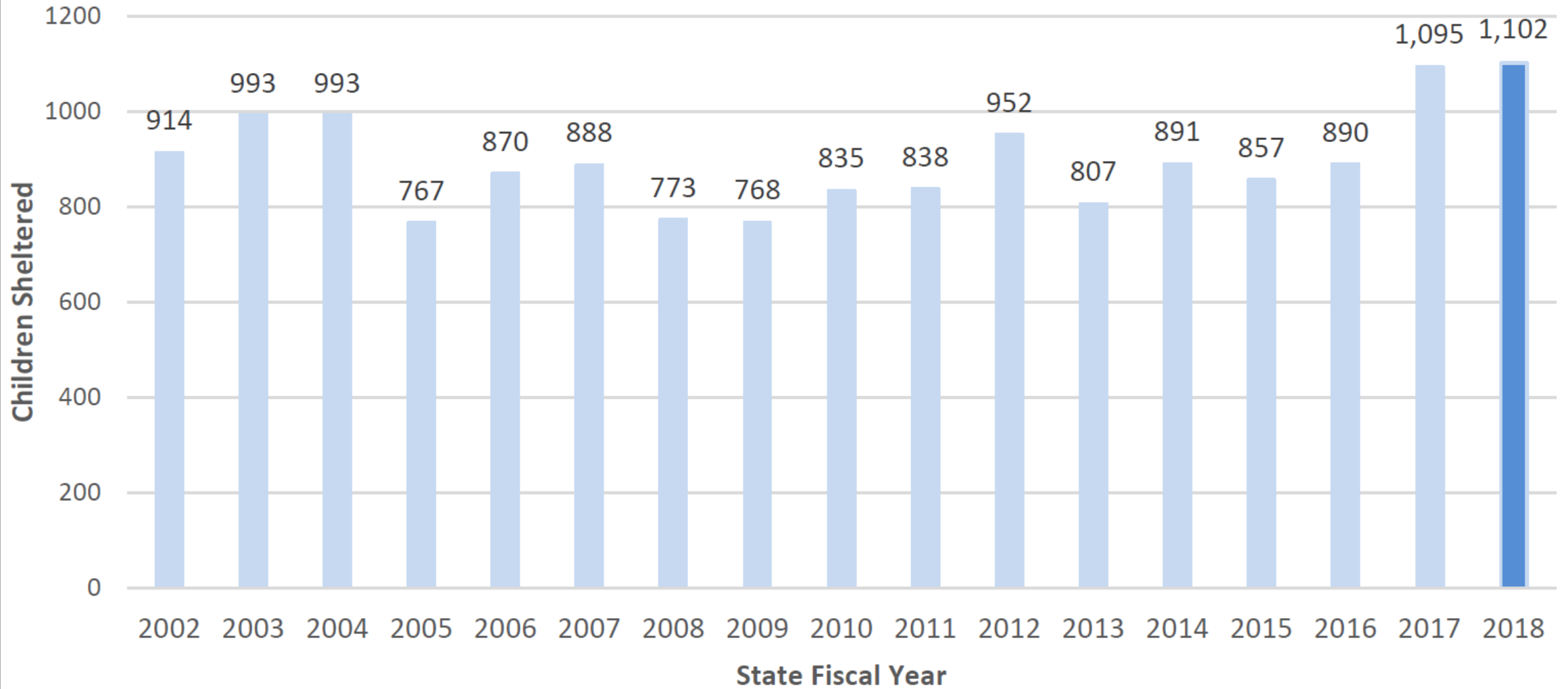
Unaccompanied Youth: Basic Center, Transitional Living Program

Domestic/Sexual Violence Shelters, with some motel overflow, some “transitional”

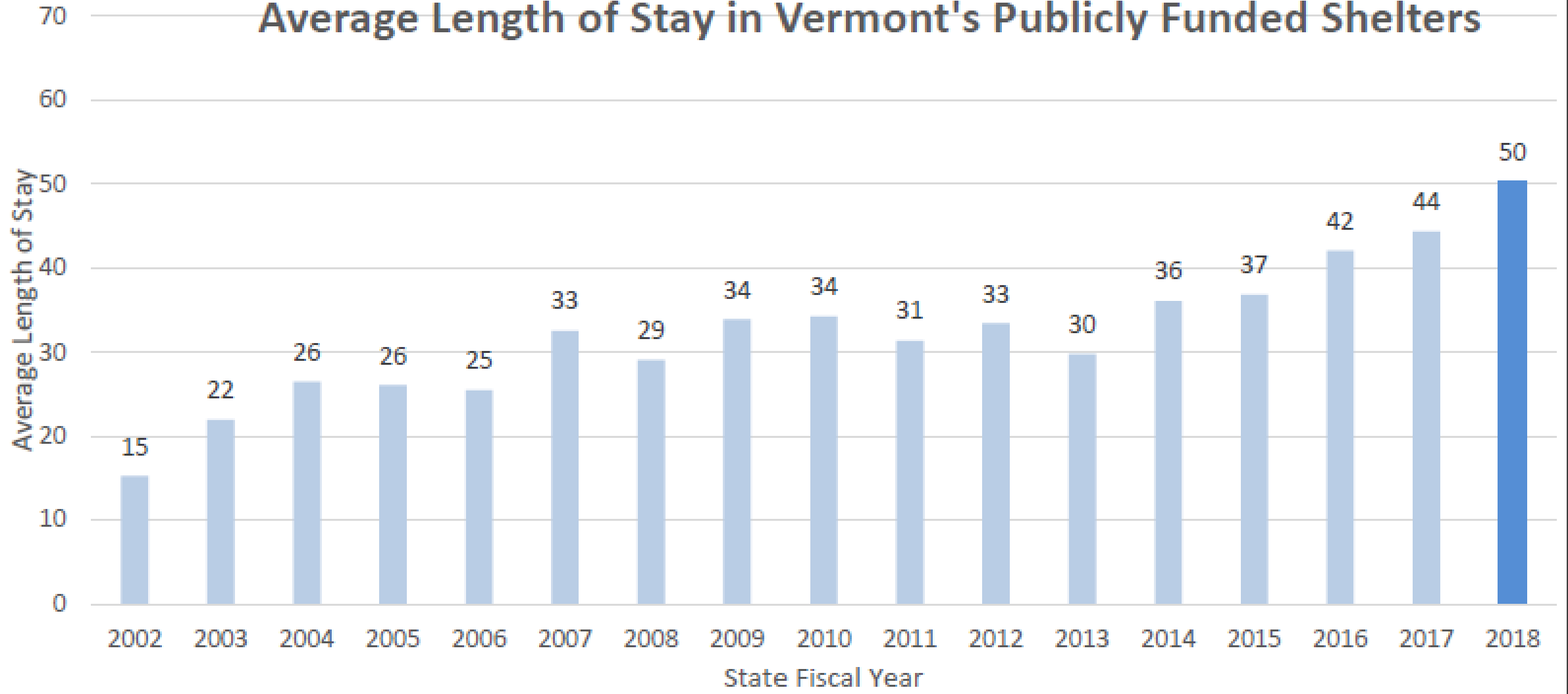
## Persons in Vermont's Publicly Funded Homeless Shelters



# Children in Vermont's Publicly Funded Homeless Shelters



## Average Length of Stay in Vermont's Publicly Funded Shelters



# Types of Housing Interventions

## Supportive Housing

- *Evidence-based housing intervention that combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities.*

## Affordable Housing

- *Housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities.*

## Rapid Rehousing

- *Intervention that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.*

## Homeless Prevention

- *Strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them stabilize and preserve existing housing, or identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.*

# Homelessness Prevention

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Prevent homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them stabilize and preserve existing housing, or identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

**“But for this assistance” ...  
targeted  
prevention and  
diversion**

**Limited public  
funding but  
range of help:  
back rent,  
moving help,  
security deposit,  
rental assistance**

**Financial  
Coaching and  
Renter 101  
classes**

**Faith groups  
and Case  
Conferencing is  
helpful**

# HOUSED PEOPLE ARE NOT HOMELESS



RAPID RE-HOUSING

**RRRH**

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) **ends homelessness** for families and individuals.

**FIND** LANDLORDS  
& APARTMENTS

Help people quickly find housing within one month or less.

**HELP PAY**  
FOR HOUSING

Help people pay for housing short term; longer-term help an option.

**CONNECT**  
TO JOBS & SERVICES

Help access services so people can stay in housing.



# Landlord Liaisons

## Time-limited Subsidies

- to the right households (appropriate match)
- exit by bridging to affordable housing or increasing in income

## Service Connection

- Housing Navigation and Retention help

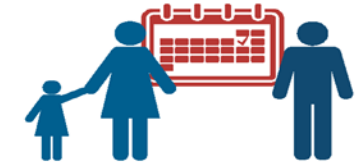
### FIND FAST HOUSING IDENTIFICATION



**Build** relationships with landlords to have access to as many housing units as possible.



**Find** and secure housing as quickly as possible after a person or family becomes homeless.



**Limit** the time a family or individual spends homeless. Move people into housing within **30 days** or less.

### HELP PAY RENT AND MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE



**Pay** for security deposits, move-in expenses...



... and/or rent and utilities.



Length of assistance varies, but often **4 to 6 months**.

### HELP CONNECT TO JOBS AND SERVICES

**Connect** families and individuals to services and supports in the community.

**Help** resolve issues that may threaten housing stability, including conflicts with landlords.



# (Permanent) Supportive Housing

Evidence-based housing intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people who need long-term support to maintain independent living.



## Services

- Long-term
- Always home-based
- Intensive, but individualized



## Targeted to those with most severe needs

- For individuals – disability is a usually a threshold
- Chronic Homeless
- Frequent users of other systems
- For families – child welfare involvement



## Examples

- Shelter + Care
- Pathways
- HUD VASH
- Family Supported Housing

# Affordable Housing

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“Affordable” = Housing costs are < 30% of income (including utilities). Not always true.

Services not requisite; income eligibility varies

Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher): project-based, tenant-based

Local Affordable Housing Provider: Downstreet, Champlain Housing Trust, Shires, Rural Edge, Windham Windsor Housing Trust, *etc*

Directory of Affordable Housing: <http://www.housingdata.org/doarh/>

# Services to Get & Keep Housing

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## Housing Navigation

help to find housing or transition into housing, short-term, focused on connecting household to “mainstream” services (e.g., employment, health, childcare/parent support, income supports)

## Housing Retention

help to sustain tenancy, varies in length, housing-based services



# Housing Opportunity Grant Program

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Funding for community organizations who help people in crisis to find or keep stable, safe housing

- ~\$7 million of state and federal funding
  - Emergency Shelter: Year-round and warming shelters; day shelters; domestic violence shelters; apartment stays for families
  - Transitional housing for youth & veterans
  - Homelessness prevention
  - Rapid re-housing programs
- OEO partners with over 40 programs



**Last year 3,872 people  
were sheltered:  
2,770 adults &  
1,102 children (< 18 years)**

# Family Supportive Housing Program

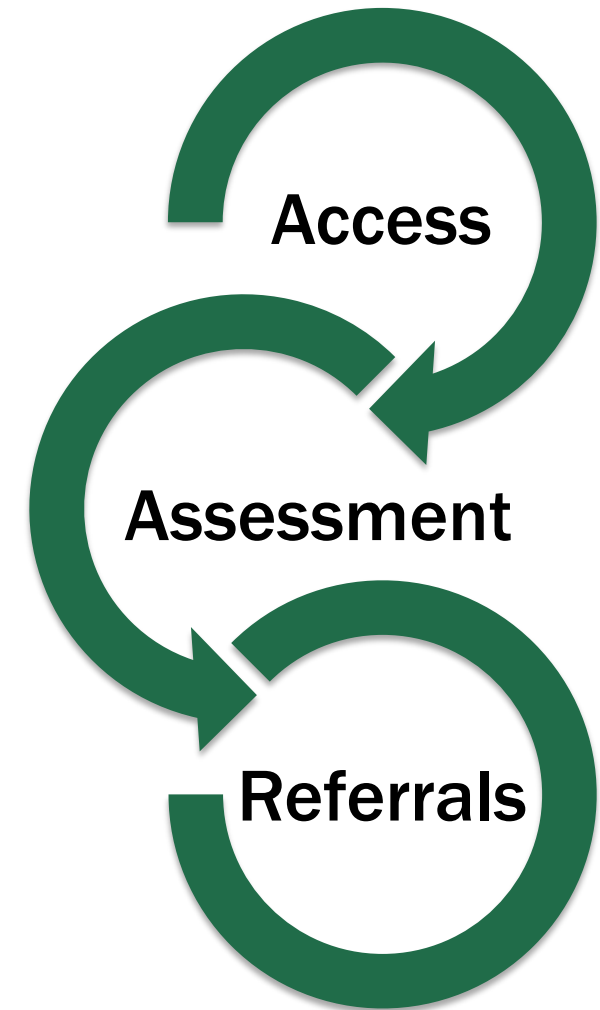
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- Supportive housing for families experiencing homelessness
- 7 community providers, ~155 families currently
- Blend of general fund and Medicaid
- Program components;
  - ✓ Permanent housing (MOU with housing providers)
  - ✓ Intensive, home-based services (small caseloads)
  - ✓ Financial empowerment support (banking, credit, savings)
- ~82-90% of participating families are stably housed
- ~30% of families with Family Services; ~60% with Reach Up

# Coordinated Entry – Overarching Goals

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- Reorient system to focus on those being served
- Minimize time and frustration accessing help
- Maximize use of system resources
- Identify service gaps for planning



# Office of Economic Opportunity

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Sarah Phillips

[sarah.phillips@vermont.gov](mailto:sarah.phillips@vermont.gov)

(802) 585-9218

