From: Toni Grout <tgrout@capstonevt.org>
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Subject: [External] Information for tomorrow's testimony

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to share some information and context before my testimony tomorrow. I will be giving and overview of the Coordinated Entry process and current homeless situation. The area that needs thoughtful consideration is the universal housing application. This application has already been developed and is used by Downstreet. We have asked for years that the Housing Authorities and subsidized providers accept only the universal application. Currently they must take the universal application (per HUD funding) but then they ask for their individual applications even though they ask the same information. I ask you to consider how much case managers and homeless people can endure.

Currently in Washington County we fill out 5 subsidized housing applications; Barre Housing, Montpelier Housing, Vermont State Housing, Highgate and Downstreet. Montpelier Housing Authority does not provide their application as clients must complete it in person. The applications for the other four housing properties total 122 pages of application- BHA 17, Highgate 54, VSHA 34, Downstreet 21. We ask people to fill these out and the minimum wait is at least a year – families are waiting 2-3 years. This is a hard sell for people in crisis and homeless.

The universal housing application is 15 pages.

I will attach the applications so that you can understand what we are asking. I do not expect that you have time to read through the applications but just open them and see what they look like. Less than a third of homeless households in the hotels have completed these applications.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to talking with you more,

Toni Grout

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