

Office of Economic Opportunity

SFY 2021 Budget Presentation



DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Agency of Human Services

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 & grants
- Training and technical assistance
- Results and performance accountability
- Identify and develop resources for communities
- Promote approaches based on evidence and research to improve policy and practice

Core Areas of Work

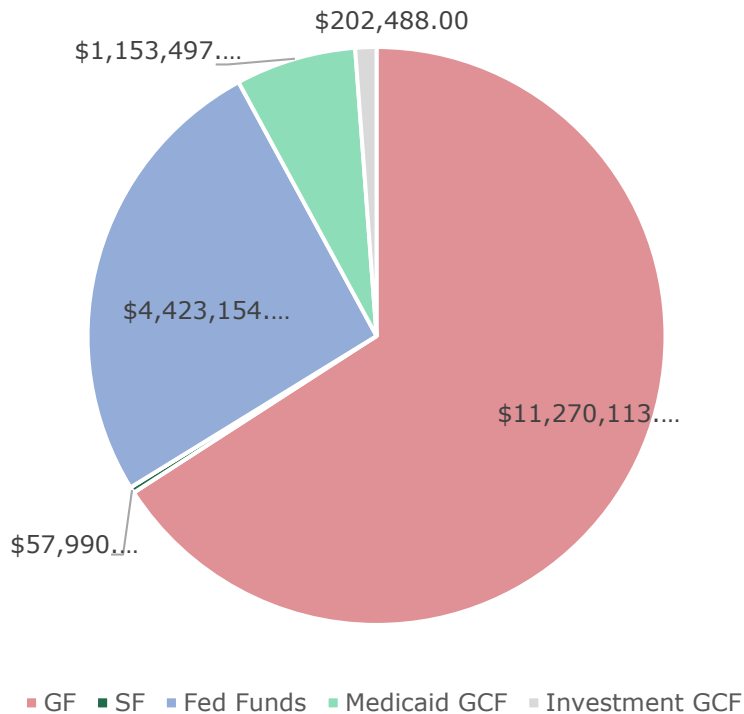
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program
- Community Services Block Grant
 - Core funding for Community Action Agencies
- Financial Empowerment
 - Micro Business Development Program
 - Vermont Matched Savings Program (aka IDA)
- Homeless Assistance
 - Housing Opportunity Grant Program
 - Family Supportive Housing Program

OEO Staff & Partners

- 8 staff (based in Waterbury)
- 50+ Partners (grantees):
 - Community Action Agencies
 - Weatherization Providers
 - Homeless Shelter and Service Providers
 - Family Supportive Housing Providers
- Work with several stakeholder groups on issues that intersect with our work – poverty, homelessness and energy

FY 2021 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Economic Opportunity



- Pay Act: \$10,616
- Restructure of Emergency Housing:
funding shifts
new positions
- Expansion of Family Supporting
Housing Program:
funding shifts
- Eliminate Microbusiness
Development Program: (\$293,339)
- Eliminate Individual Development
Account Program: (\$170,301)

Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP)

Blends ~\$7m in federal and state funding for 40+ community organizations to support housing crisis interventions.

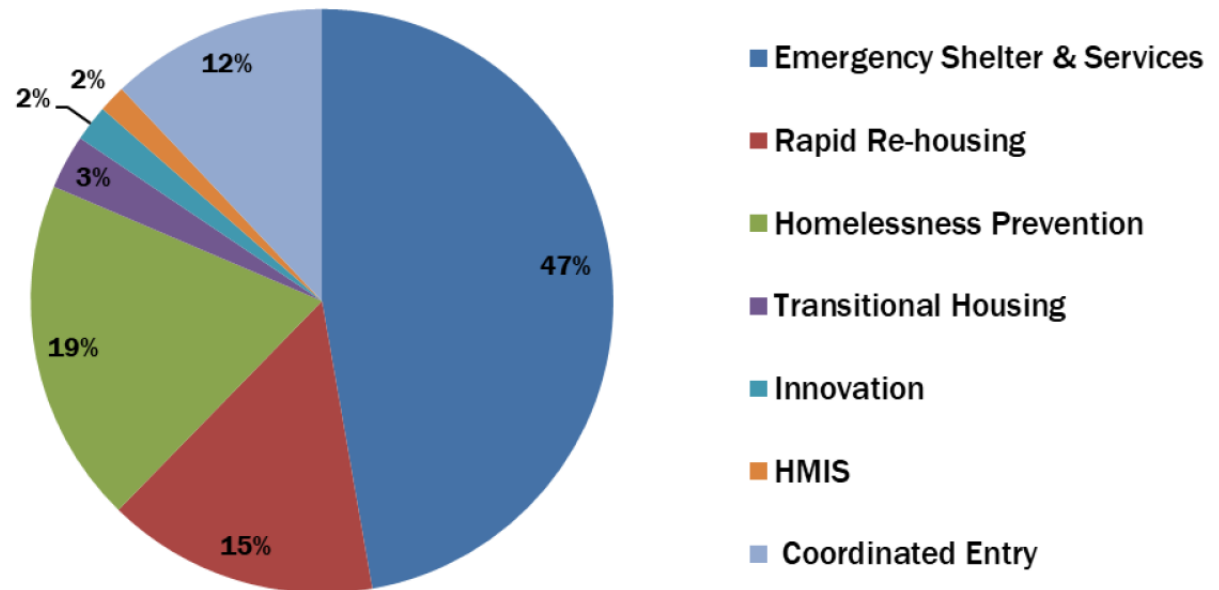
SFY 2020 Awards

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/Docs/HOP-Grants-SFY2020.pdf>

SFY 2019

Annual Report

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/Docs/HOP-AR-2019.pdf>



Emergency Shelter

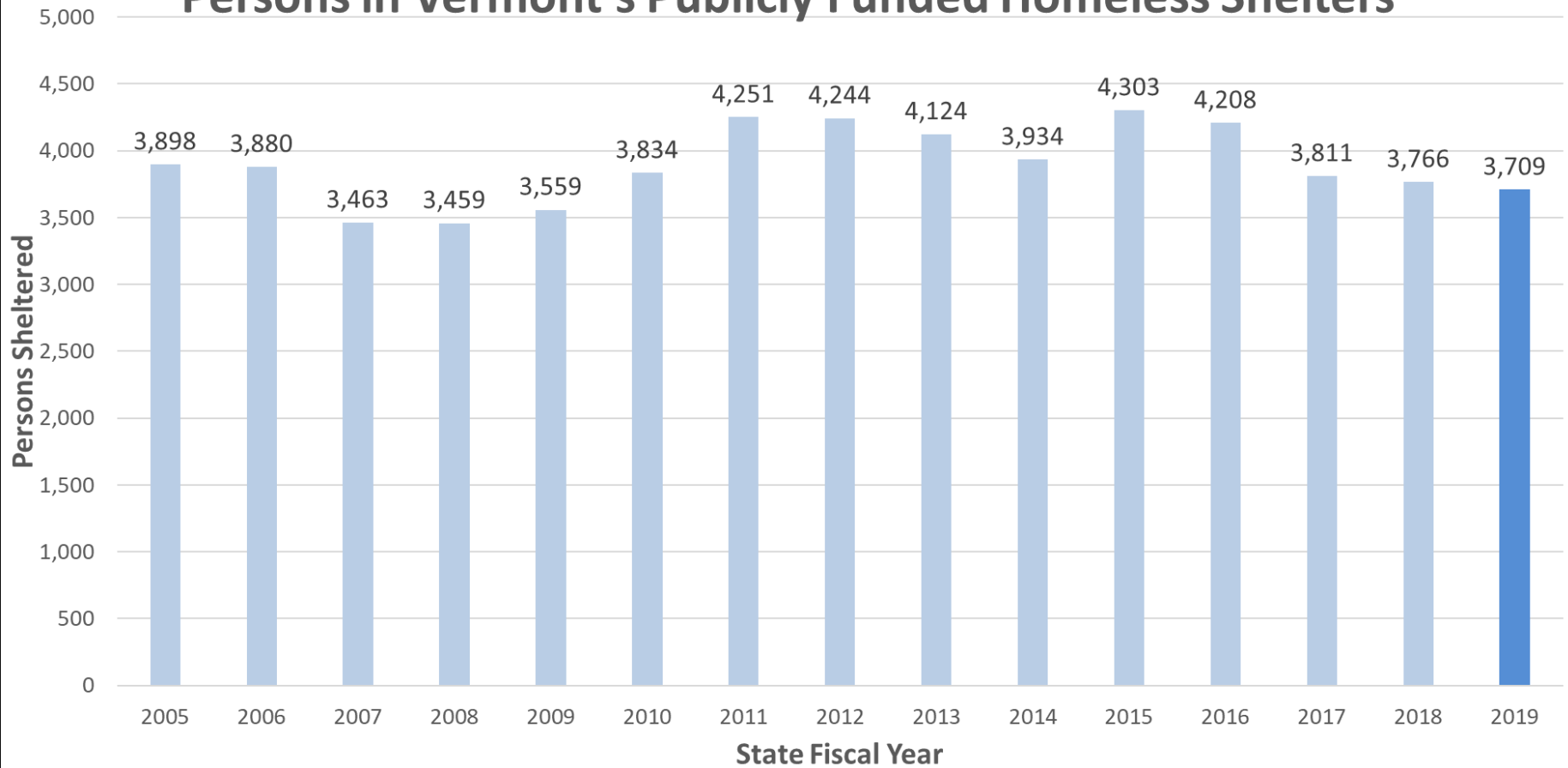


**Last year,
2,710 households
sheltered in community-
based projects.**

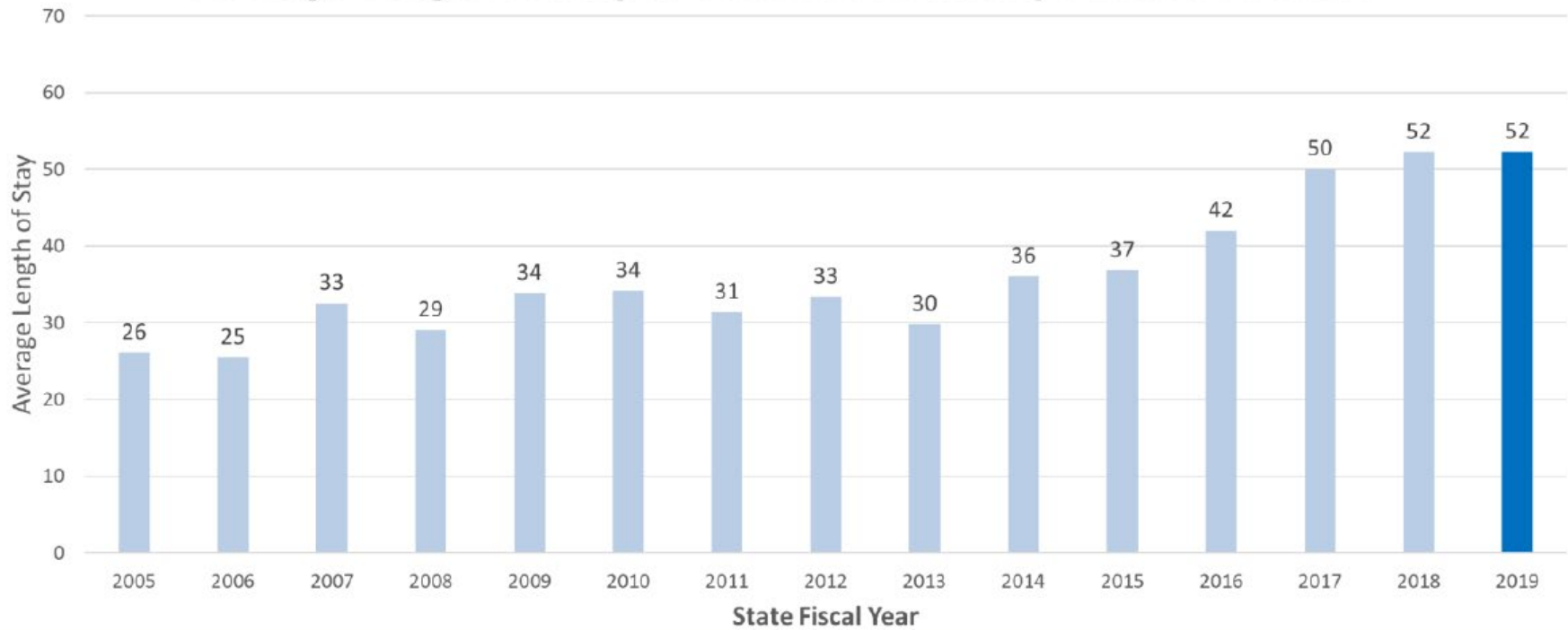
By design, intended to be temporary, and to help guests move into permanent housing as quickly as possible

Variety of forms:
congregate facility,
domestic/sexual violence
shelters, motels,
seasonal “warming” shelter,
emergency apartments for
families, host homes for youth

Persons in Vermont's Publicly Funded Homeless Shelters



Average Length of Stay in Vermont's Publicly Funded Shelters



General & Emergency Assistance (GA) Temp Housing

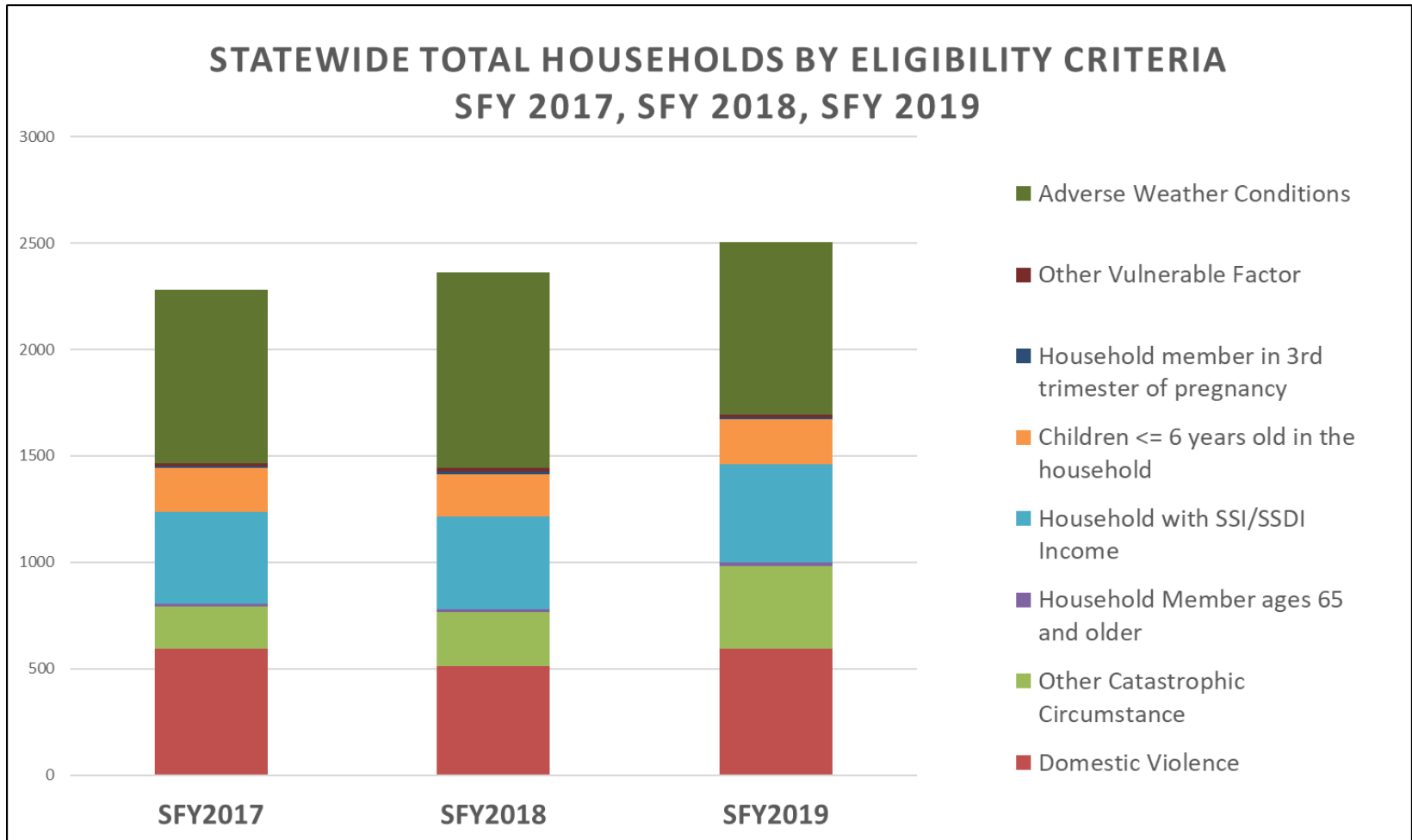
Provides emergency housing in a hotel/motel when no alternative shelter is available.

Eligibility/access through Economic Services District Office or 2-1-1 (After hours)

- Catastrophic
- Vulnerable
- Adverse Weather Conditions

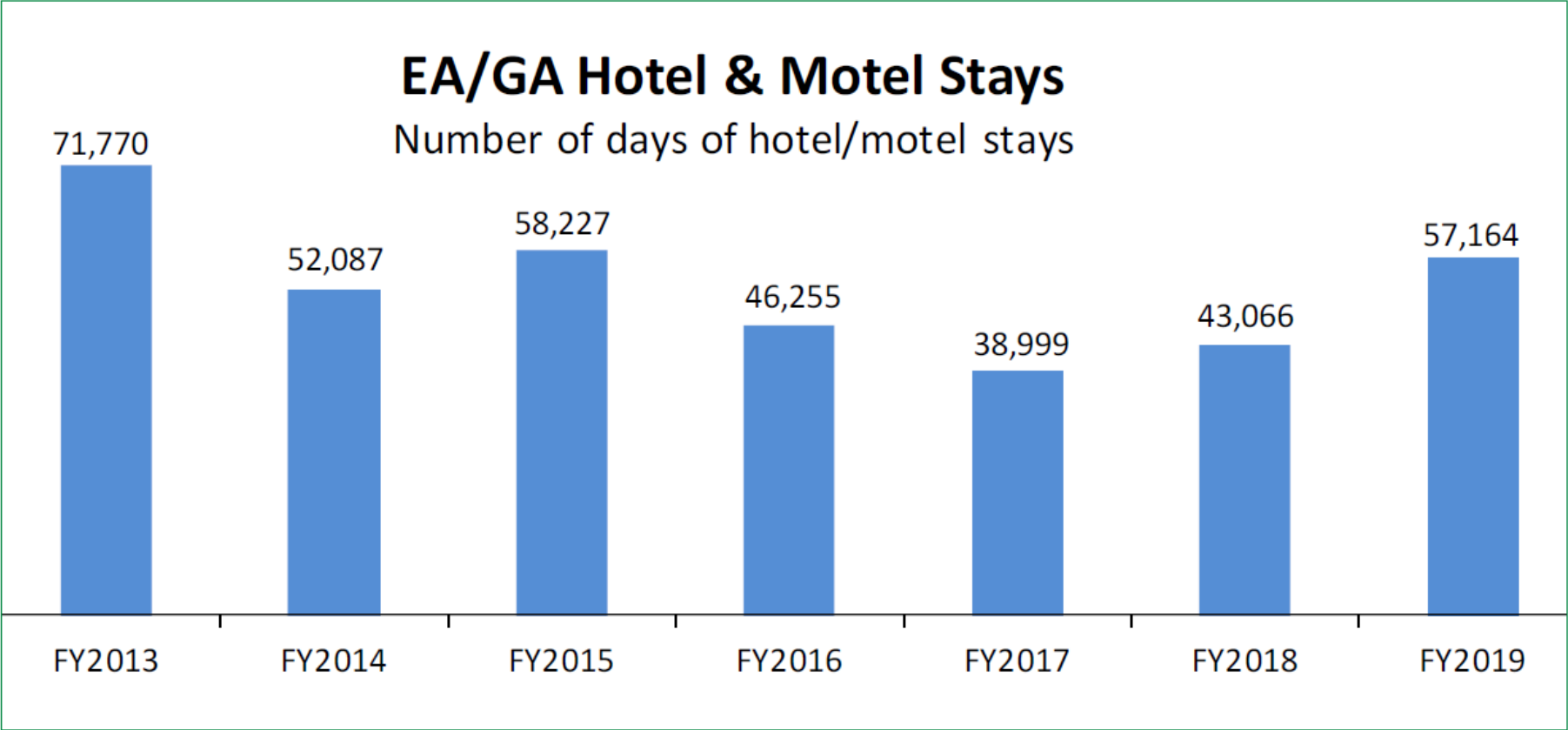
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/FY19-GA-Legislative-Report-FINAL-8.30.19.pdf>

General Assistance Emergency Housing



EA/GA Hotel & Motel Stays

Number of days of hotel/motel stays



GA Community Investments

Decrease motel reliance by increasing community capacity

- 17 projects in 11 AHS Districts

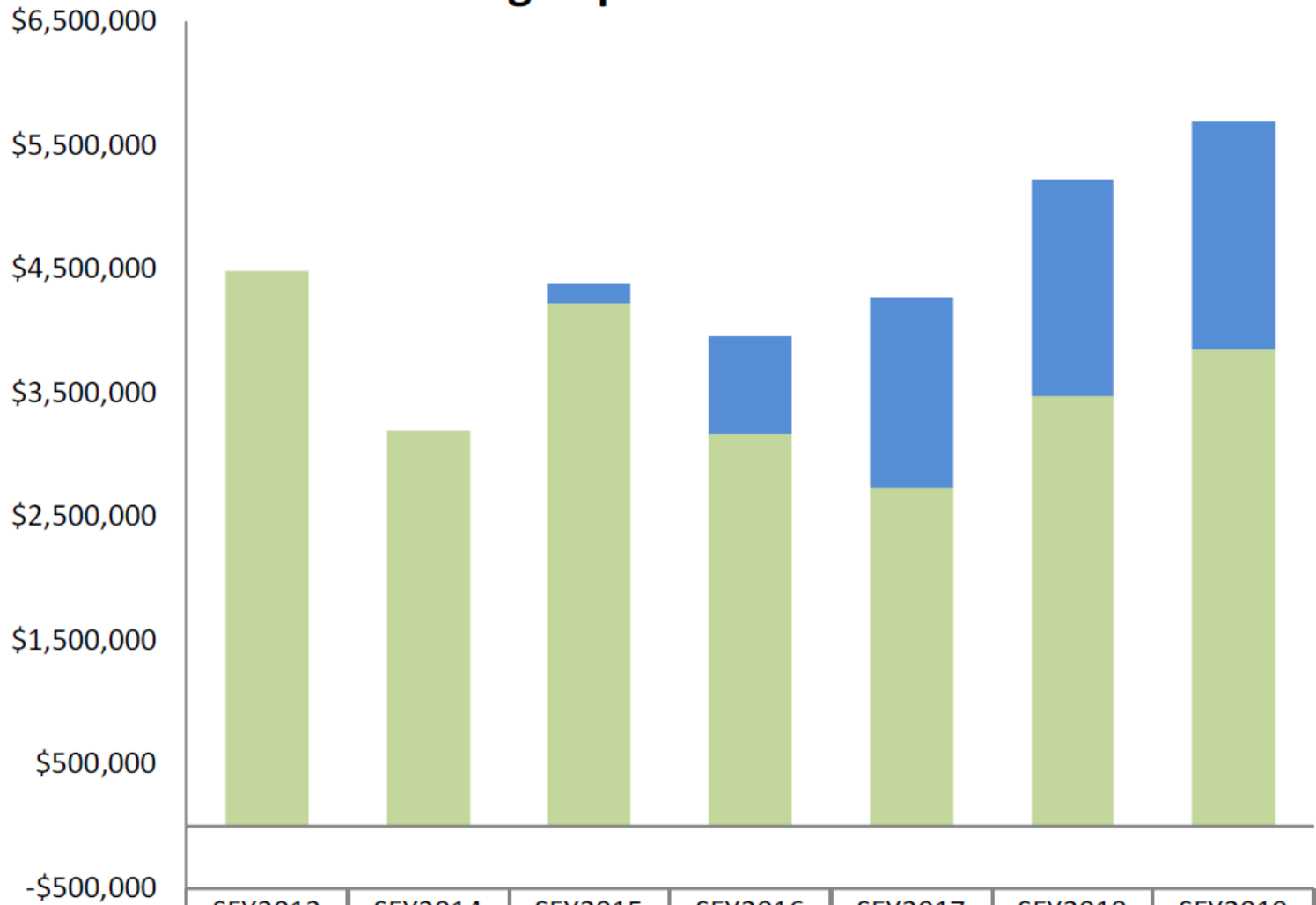
Improve service delivery

- Services help connect people to housing help and address housing barriers

Range of projects, including:

- Seasonal warming shelters
- Expansion of shelter, “motel pools” and services at domestic violence shelters

GA Housing Expenditures & Investments



	SFY2013	SFY2014	SFY2015	SFY2016	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019
Community Investments	\$0	\$0	\$158,568	\$788,544	\$1,548,581	\$1,758,095	\$1,843,579
Hotel/Motel Stays	\$4,487,722	\$3,195,116	\$4,222,150	\$3,172,578	\$2,730,568	\$3,470,838	\$3,845,625

SFY21: Emergency Housing Restructure

Proposal to end GA emergency housing (“motel voucher program”) and invest in community-based emergency housing/shelter.

Aims to:

- Provide a realistic and responsible transition away from motels to protect vulnerable Vermonters;
- Partner to support community responsibility and accountability;
- Promote equity, quality and results through statewide standards and uniformity.

SFY21: Emergency Housing Restructure

Move funds from ESD to OEO to expand grants to community organizations, training and technical assistance

DCF Admin: Eliminate 8 positions

- 2 temp positions \$70,123
- 6 Benefit Program Specialist (BPS) positions \$349,617

DCF ESD - GA: Move GA Emergency Housing Funds

- GA Temporary Housing Funding: \$1,881,388
- Move Community Investment Grants: \$1,664,142
- End Champlain Housing Trust Contract: \$518,305
- GA Temporary Housing BAA request: \$1,954,185

Total funds: \$6,437,760

SFY21: Emergency Housing Restructure

Move funds from ESD to OEO to expand grants to community organizations, training and technical assistance

DCF OEO: Total Redirect of \$6,406,000

- Add 2 new positions: \$198,871
 - Program Manager and Program Officer
- Add to Homeless Assistance Grants: \$6,207,179

**Total SFY 21 Base Homeless Assistance Grants
(current + new GF): \$10,508,012**

One-time Funds – Homeless Assistance Grants: \$418,620

Family Supportive Housing (FSH)

Supportive housing for families with complex needs who have experienced homelessness

7 community providers (7 districts) ~134 families at a time

- Brattleboro District: Winston Prouty Center
- Burlington District: COTS & Howard Center in Burlington
- Rutland District: Homeless Prevention Center
- St. Johnsbury District: Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)
- Hartford District: Upper Valley Haven
- Barre District: Family Center of Washington County
- Bennington District: Sunrise Family Resource Center

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/Docs/FSH-AR-SFY2019.pdf>

FSH Program Components

- Intensive, home-based case management and service coordination (12-15 families/staff)
- Permanent housing through partnership
- Evidence-based national model - holistic, multi-generation, trauma-informed
- Financial Empowerment Support
- Prioritized for families with multiple episodes of homelessness, DCF case, children under age 6

SFY 21: Expand Family Supportive Housing

Expand Family Supportive Housing

- SFY21 Proposal to expand from 7 to 10 AHS Districts
 - Based on GA data, Homeless PIT count and FSD caseload data: St. Albans District, Springfield District and TBD
- Create capacity for an additional 110 families
- Strengthen partnership with Family Unification Vouchers

SFY 21: Expand Family Supportive Housing

- Expansion is revenue neutral
- FSH expansion is funded through:
 - Vermont Rental Subsidy Program reduction: \$200,000
 - Eliminate Independence Place Grant: \$288,000

Total: \$488,000
- Cost of expansion:
 - OEO Staffing (.8 to 1FTE): \$17,421
 - Training and Technical Assistance: \$40,000
 - FSH Provider Funds: \$430,579

Total: \$488,000
- Of \$430,579 GF cost, \$240,044 will be used to drawn down \$526,297 in Medicaid

SFY 21: Eliminate MBDP Grants

- \$293,339 general fund
- Last 2 years received additional \$100,000 in one-time funding from legislature
- Grants to 5 Community Action Agencies
- Provides technical assistance and training to help low income Vermonters start and grow a business
- Other organizations and resources exist to support business development

SFY 21: Eliminate MBDP Grants

SFY 2019 (last year)

- 541 total participants statewide (declining enrollment)
- 26 people were unemployed and created a job (part-time or full-time) for themselves
- 59 business started
- 77 FTE jobs created
- \$565,657 in capital leveraged by participants

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/DCF/reports/DCF-Outcomes.pdf>

SFY 21: End Vermont Matched Savings Program (aka IDAs)

- \$170,301 general fund
- Grant to Community Action Agencies to operate the program
- Multi-year financial education & savings program for low-income Vermonters
 - save up to \$1,000 over 2 years
 - matched 1:1 by state funds
 - invest in first home (~20%), post-secondary education (~20%), a business (~60%), more recently allowed: home repair, vehicle for travel to work or work tools

SFY 21: End Vermont Matched Savings Program (aka IDAs)

- Last year:
 - 143 people has open accounts
 - 110 people increased their savings (77%)
 - 32 people invested their savings and match (22%)
- Funding supports 35 new accounts/year and services for all. Phase down by repurposing current unused accounts for services in SFY21
- Last year of federal funding in SFY2017
- Administratively complex program

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/DCF/reports/DCF-Outcomes.pdf>

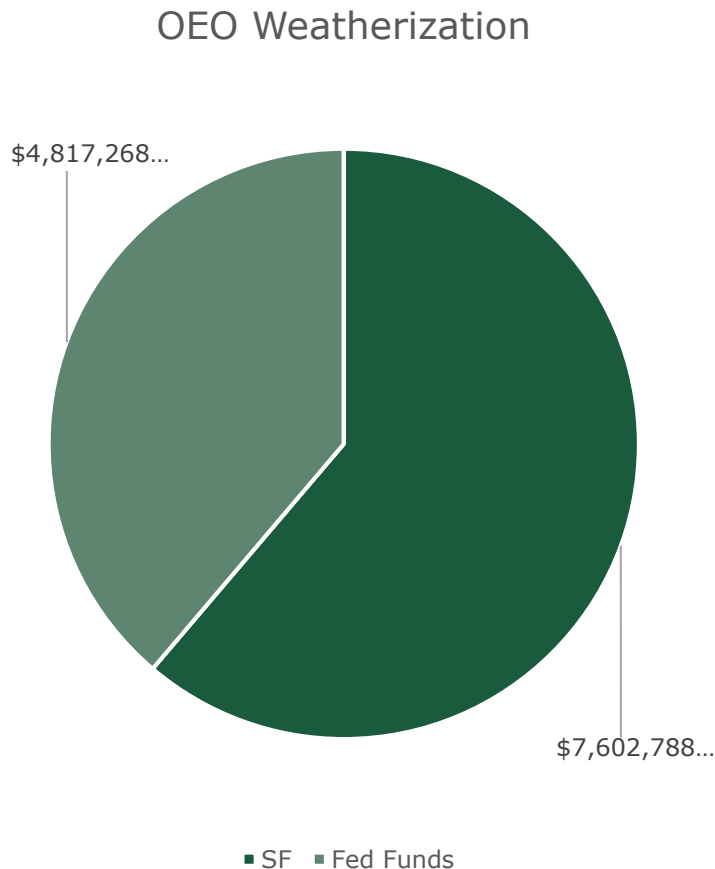
Reach Up

Financial Empowerment Pilot

- Partnership between 2 Community Action Agencies and Reach Up
- 4 Districts: Burlington, St. Albans, Barre, Morrisville
- Current Components
 - Incentives
 - 1:1 Financial Coaching
 - Financial education classes
 - Research-based practices and tools
- Exploring options to expand

Agency of Human Services, Department for Children & Families OEO Weatherization - FY 2021 Governor's Recommended Budget

Governor's Initiative on Weatherization



25% of remaining undesignated fiscal year surplus to be transferred to the Weatherization Special Fund

In SFY 2019:

- The program weatherized 573 single-family homes and 194 buildings with 2+ Units
- The average investment per Unit was \$10,173
- The average energy savings was 34%

[Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program](#)