

Testimony before House and Human Services Committee

Tuesday, April 22, 2020

Increasing pressures, how you are handling them, now and in the future; and what they are hearing is needed still

Increasing pressures now

COVID Recovery

Standing up and operating the Chittenden Recovery Center in South Burlington

- Fitting the building for cold (clean), Warm (exposed) and Hot (viral) sections of the building caring for covid positive people
- Hiring and training 20 people in two and a half weeks
- Working with the State, UVM Med and CHCB

Food

- All three Food shelves are stretched to the maximum limits. Weatherization crews and auditors are helping with rescuing food, packing boxes and delivering food
- Feeding Chittenden is serving between 50 – 60 people for a take out breakfast, making 1,200 meals a day for homeless people at hotels, delivering 250 groceries to homebound elderly or disabled families and distributing 600 – 800 boxes of groceries a week for those who come to pick them up

Emergency furnace replacement, repair and Crisis fuel continue

Housing

- We are continuing to place households in permanent housing and pay security deposits, rent and back rent
- We are getting multiple 5 – 10 requests a day for help with rent where an eviction has been delay but families are unable to pay rent due to the loss or reduction in employment

Financial capability

- We are holding more classes and having greater participation than ever for Financial classes and micro-business support
- We are working with families receiving stimulus checks
- We are continuing to help individuals with tax preparation

We are working closely with New Americans – translating materials and producing videos and webinars to help keep them safe. We are directly assisting Asylum seekers who have no other supports.

All other CVOEO Programs are functioning productively and serving more than ever

Increased pressures when this is over

- Greatly increased need for services
 - Food, fuel, housing and Financial capability services will be needed more than ever. There will be a great burden faced and much more pressure when evictions come back into play in a more forceful way with households not able to pay rent and employment continues to lag.
 - We will need more funding for the HOP program
 - More funding for LIHEAP
 - More funding for Financial Capacity program which will be every more vital to bring people back to stability.

Thank you for your leadership

Jan F. Demers

CVOEO

jdemers@cvoeo.org

802-862-2771 ext. 740