

Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity:

State Fiscal Year 2018 year-end reports on the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP, formerly the Emergency Services Grant) Annual Report and the Family Supportive Housing (FSH) Annual Report.

Housing Opportunity Grant Program

The HOP Annual Report focuses on the services and shelter provided by publicly-funded, privately operated nonprofit partners, and gives insight into changes in the population experiencing homelessness in Vermont as well as the services and results achieved by the system of care.

Here are some of the key takeaways from the HOP report, from Sarah Phillips and Emily Higgins at the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity:

- HOP-funded emergency shelter served 3,872 people for a total of 194,505 bednights. Over 1,100 of those sheltered were children.
- The average length of stay was 50 days, the longest reported in 16 years.
- More than a quarter of all HOP grant funding (~\$1.9 million) were investments from the General Assistance Emergency Housing program to increase community alternatives to motels.
- 87% of those sheltered were connected with a case manager within 3 days, 37% of households in emergency shelter receiving case management were stabilized in permanent or transitional housing.
- Nearly 74% of total households served by Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing were stabilized in permanent housing within 30 days.

For additional context and information, including demographic information and funding allocation, [read the full report here](#).

Family Supportive Housing Annual Report



The Family Supportive Housing Annual Report focuses on the program outcomes for the past state fiscal year (SFY). Family Supportive Housing (FSH) is a program that provides intensive case management and service coordination for homeless families with children. FSH strives to address and remedy the root cause of homelessness for each family experiencing homelessness while promoting resiliency and building financial capacity. So far it operates in seven Vermont Counties. Statewide expansion of the program has been one of the Affordable Housing Coalition's annual legislative priorities for the last few years.

Here are some of the key takeaways for the FSH SFY 2018 report, from Sarah Phillips and Emily Higgins at the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity:

- FSH enrolled a total of 187 families, with 183 adults and 273 children (81% of whom were under the age of 6).
- FSH providers enroll families when they are homeless and help families secure rental subsidy and/or affordable rental units. The median amount of time families were homeless in SFY 2018 prior to being housed through FSH increased nearly to nearly 7 months, from 3.5 months in 2017. This suggests the program is prioritizing high needs families.
- At the end of SFY 2018, 131 families were still enrolled in FSH. 94 of these families (72%) were stably housed. 21 families exited the program in SFY 2018.
- Among families exiting, 90% (19) moved on successfully.
- Of families participating in FSH, 46% (60) were involved with the Family Services Division at enrollment and only 7% (9) lost custody of a child during enrollment with FSH.

When compared with other supportive housing programs, many of these outcomes - particularly 90% of exiting families moving on successfully - are exceptional.

For additional information, [read the full report here](#).