



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness
147 State Street #1
P.O. Box 944
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2022 Legislative & Policy Priorities

The Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness supports policies and legislative action that ensure that people living in Vermont have a safe, stable, affordable homes, and -- if homelessness occurs -- it is brief, rare, non-recurring and that those experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and respect.

- Fully fund Governor Scott's \$249 million Housing Recovery Plan
- Prioritize the funding of non-congregate emergency and temporary shelter to create sufficient capacity to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. With this expansion of shelter capacity, provide funding for shelter staff recruitment and retention and for training and other supports for shelter service providers.
- Under the auspices of the Governor's Office, form a Working Group to identify potential sites statewide for affordable housing (shelter, temporary, permanent). Include redevelopment/reuse of abandoned or lightly used campuses, other abandoned or condemned properties, and developable land.
- Expand access to the General Assistance emergency housing program through the Economic Services Division by eliminating restrictive eligibility categories and durational limits on benefits until such time as sufficient emergency, temporary, or permanent housing is available.
- Expedite and streamline access to residential care programs for those who are experiencing homelessness and with complex substance use disorder, traumatic brain injury, and mental health needs. Working with the Department of Mental Health and Designated Mental Health Agencies and other partners, explore options including improving access to community care and respite facilities and expanding access to and scope of Medicaid reimbursement.
- Support VT Network's request for funding to evaluate housing solutions for people fleeing domestic or sexual violence.
- Support passage of "An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes," H.93.
- Support the passage of Rental Housing Safety bill.
- Full statutory funding for the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.
- Support the policy and legislative goals of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition.

Endorsing:

Holly Olio, Franklin /Grand Isle CoC
Jason Brill, Network of Veteran Service Providers
Jess Graff, VCEH Co-Chair
Jessica Makela, Rutland CoC
Kara Casey, VCEH Co-Chair
Kim Anetsberger, Lamoille CoC
Lee Trapani, Southern Windsor - Northern Windham CoC
Marie Lennon, Middlebury

Mary Gerisch, Bennington CoC
Meghan Morrow, Institute for Community Alliances
Ramsey Papp, Northern Windsor - Orange CoC
Sophie Pickens, Addison CoC
Star Barden, Caledonia & Essex CoC
Suzanne Legare-Belcher, Orleans - Essex North CoC
Whitney Nichols, Brattleboro
Zack Hughes, Washington CoC