

Joint Fiscal Committee Motion 2/11/2021

Senator Kitchel moves to approve Grant #3034 \$200,000,000 to the VT Agency of Administration from the US Dept. of the Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program and five limited service positions as follows:

1. Agencies are allocated the funds consistent with the following distribution plan:
 - A. PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION PLAN (GRANTS BUDGET):
 - i. \$110,000,000.00 to AOA to grant to the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) to implement a modified version of their existing Rental Housing Stabilization Program (RHSP). This program will be implemented via a MOA between AOA, VSHA, and DHCD. It is further provided that the Agencies shall establish procedures that housing units assisted with ERAP funding follows VT's Life Safety Code requirements; and procedures to ensure rent is not increased, as a result of receiving ERAP funding for the period of assistance. The participating landlords shall be encouraged to engage in weatherization activities and programs.
 - ii. \$12,700,000.00 to PSD to implement a modified version of their existing utility assistance program. This would include creation of two limited service positions; a Consumer Affairs and Information Specialist and a Benefits Program Administrator.
 - iii. \$15,000,000.00 to AHS to assist homeless individuals, those exiting homelessness, and implement other such programming as becomes allowable under federal guidance. This would include creation of two limited service positions; a Financial Manager II, and a Community Services Program Manager.
 - iv. \$9,000,000.00 to DHCD for "other housing services" as defined by the Act, which pending Treasury Guidance, may include tenant and landlord counseling and mediation services such as those administered by Vermont Legal Aid, and the Vermont Landlord's Association, and to other programs which may become viable upon further guidance from the U.S. Treasury. This would include creation of one limited service position; a Grants Specialist.
 - v. \$53,300,00.00 to AOA to hold in reserve to allocate to programs in need of additional funds, and/or to programs which may become viable pursuant to evolving U.S. Treasury guidance.
 - B. Any expenditures from the \$53,300,000 held in reserve at the Agency of Administration may only be spent based on legislative appropriation.
 - C. Any reallocations between and among subsections i through iv must be approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee.