

Homelessness in Vermont – New Projects & Partnerships

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The Homeless Prevention Center is a community-based nonprofit which has provided housing assistance and essential services to people in Rutland County for over 20 years. Last year we assisted **634** Vermonters who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness. We chair the local homeless Continuum of Care for Rutland County. Our services reach people at all points along the Continuum of Care from homelessness to stable housing:

- ▶ Homeless Outreach & Engagement
- ▶ Housing Assessments (Coordinated Entry Lead Agency for Rutland County)
- ▶ Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing
- ▶ Youth Housing Navigation
- ▶ Housing Case Management
- ▶ Emergency Apartments
- ▶ Transitional Housing
- ▶ Permanent Supportive Housing (for single adults and families)

In addition to our core programs and partnerships, HPC is collaborating with partners on a number of new initiatives to help stabilize and rehouse people experiencing homelessness. One example is Lincoln Place.

Overview

- Lincoln Place is permanent, affordable housing developed by the **Housing Trust of Rutland County** to house 19 households (mostly singles) who are income-eligible for section 8.
- The building is a former school located on Lincoln Avenue.
- 10 units will be for people currently homeless in Rutland County (at least half of those 10 will be for people who are chronically-homeless).
 - Importance of integrating housing for people who are homeless into different sites.
- The remaining units will be for people meeting section 8 eligibility.
- Tenants began moving in to Lincoln Place in late November.
- As of today, 14 of 19 apartments are leased up with the rest in process.

Services Model

- Services will be available on site from Rutland Mental Health and the Homeless Prevention Center.
- Services are optional to any resident, not required.
- Services can include housing case management, non-categorical case management, community and group activities, access to other programs at RMHS.

Rental Subsidies

- Project based Section 8 from Rutland Housing Authority for all 19 units.
- Some subsidies are “Mainstream vouchers” targeted to persons with disabilities.

Key Local Partners

- Housing Trust of Rutland County
- Rutland Mental Health Services
- Rutland Housing Authority
- Homeless Prevention Center
- Bouse Health Trust
- *Plus MANY* others

Learning from this Model

- A multi-year evaluation of this model is being supported by the Bouse Health Trust.
- The evaluation, coordinated by the Homeless Prevention Center, will focus on sustainability, continuous improvement, and lessons learned that may be applied in future replications in Rutland County and beyond.

The Partnership / Planning

- Establish Clarity on what the project is and who it serves
- Have your debates early
- Assume there will be challenges and prepare the partnership to be strong enough to weather those
- Establish clear roles and communication (between organizations and within organizations)

Physical Space

- Example of client-centered and designed
- Embrace idiosyncrasies!
- Planning the physical space can be an example of deepening the partnership