

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

H.675

Introduced by Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cina of Burlington,
Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-
Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington,
LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of
Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mulvaney-Stanak of
Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford,
Stebbins of Burlington, and Surprenant of Barnard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; permanent supportive housing; grants

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Agency of Human Services to establish a grant program for acquisition of or
acquisition and renovation of permanent supportive housing sites by
municipalities or other entities.

An act relating to issuing grants for permanent supportive housing

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is added to read:

3 CHAPTER 22. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

4 § 2201. PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING; GRANTS TO

5 MUNICIPALITIES OR OTHER ENTITIES

6 (a) To the extent funds permit, the Agency of Human Services shall
7 establish a grant program for municipalities or other entities seeking to acquire
8 or to acquire and renovate an existing building to serve as permanent
9 supportive housing for individuals who are chronically unhoused and in need
10 of support services or individuals who could benefit from permanent
11 supportive housing. Buildings utilized for this purpose shall contain multiple
12 studio efficiency apartments with a kitchenette, private bathroom, and sleeping
13 and living space. Renovations shall be conducted in a manner that enhances
14 energy efficiency. A participating municipality or other entity shall employ or
15 contract for the on-site services of two individuals serving as a social worker,
16 case manager, resident advocate, or in another supportive role. The two
17 individuals employed or under contract with the municipality or other entity
18 shall be present at the permanent supportive housing site for at least eight
19 hours daily and may provide services such as support groups, one-on-one
20 support services, teaching or organizing classes, and connecting residents with
21 other community resources.

1 (b)(1) The Agency shall solicit proposals for permanent supportive housing
2 from municipalities or other entities. Eligible proposals shall:

3 (A) identify the existing building to be acquired or acquired and
4 renovated for permanent supportive housing;

5 (B) provide the anticipated cost of the acquisition or acquisition and
6 renovation of the permanent supportive housing site;

7 (C) list any funding that the municipality or other entity plans to
8 contribute to the permanent supportive housing site;

9 (D) describe the accessibility of the proposed location to community
10 services such as health care providers and public transportation;

11 (E) describe the nature of programming that the two individuals
12 employed or under contract with the municipality or other entity shall provide
13 to permanent supportive housing residents;

14 (F) prioritize the training of workers to retrofit older buildings in an
15 energy-efficient and cost-effective manner that meets clean energy standards;

16 and

17 (G) provide housing for individuals facing chronic homelessness;
18 individuals in need of additional support, including those recovering from a
19 mental health condition or substance use disorder; individuals aging out of
20 their current housing; or other vulnerable populations.

1 (2) Annually, to the extent funds permit, the Agency shall select from
2 among the eligible proposals those in which the Secretary determines that the
3 need for permanent supportive housing is greatest and where the proposed site
4 or sites best ensures the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

5 (c) As used in this section, “acquire” means to purchase, lease, or obtain by
6 gift or otherwise an existing building, excluding the construction of a new
7 building.

8 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

9 In fiscal year 2025, \$4,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to
10 the Agency of Human Services for the purpose of providing grants to
11 municipalities or other entities for permanent supportive housing pursuant to
12 33 V.S.A. § 2201.

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.