

MEMO

TO: House Appropriations Committee

DATE: January 17, 2023

FROM: Anne N. Sosin on behalf of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition

RE: SFY23 BAA Proposal for Housing

Dear Chair Lanpher, Rep. Bluemle, Rep. Holcombe:


I am writing to you on behalf of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition regarding the SFY 2023 Budget Adjustment Act. We recognize the important investments that have been made in FY23 to begin to address Vermont's housing crisis. We are asking you to budget immediate resources for through the BAA to address the immediate emergency of homelessness and sustain progress in addressing the state's housing crisis.

We support the \$3 million in the HOME Family Voucher Program for families transitioning out of homelessness. We are concerned, however, that without additional funding for emergency housing, many unhoused Vermont households will become unsheltered or end up in unsafe housing conditions. We ask that the Budget Adjustment Act increase funding to the GA Emergency program through June 30, 2023 to prevent unsheltered homelessness. **Specifically, we are requesting an increase in funding to the GA Emergency Housing program to extend eligibility to households in both the GA Housing and Transitional Housing programs until June 30, 2023.**

In parallel, it is essential that Vermont sustain and accelerate progress on building affordable housing. Nonprofit housing leaders have asked for a \$175 million investment in housing programs, as a step toward addressing the state's critical housing shortage. **As you consider this request and other policy proposals to make headway on this crisis, we ask that you invest \$50 million through the BAA to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board in addition to \$5 million for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) to maintain the current pipeline of housing development.**

We thank you for your commitment to housing all Vermonters and look forward to working closely with you to craft solutions to achieve this goal over the legislative season.

Sincerely,



Anne N. Sosin