

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HOUSING INITIATIVE

Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI) is a Vermont parent-run volunteer advocacy group of over 100 parents. We are aging parents (avg 65yrs) caring for our adult children (avg 27yrs), who have an intellectual and/or developmental disability diagnosis (I/DD), many with significant support needs. Our I/DD community desperately needs the development of affordable housing options that address the range of needs and provide choices in permanent service-supported housing.

We thank the State for funding Act 186's 3 Pilot Planning Grants in 2022 to begin the process of creating housing choice for adults with I/DD. To bring these grants to implementation in FY 25, we ask you to please:

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR:

► **\$10.82M for Implementation of the 3 Pilot Grant Projects**

Waterbury - 4 units = \$2.2M and Randolph - 4 units = \$1.2M;

Burlington - 10 units = \$3.92M;

Monkton (Riverflow Community - Phase 2) - 12 units = \$3.5M

► **Annual Development of Service Supported Housing**

- Since closing Brandon in 1993, there has been little money invested by the State in service supported housing for adults with I/DD.
- The State of Vermont needs to create 602 new units of service supported housing. (2023 VTDDC Housing Research Brief)
- 9% of individuals who have I/DD are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. (Vermont Care Partners)
- The State of Vermont failed to meet their obligations under Federal Medicaid Rules, and now have 2 Corrective Action Plans to demonstrate that HCBS recipients have true choice, including choices in housing. The three Act 186 Pilot Planning Grants are contained in the latest Corrective Action Plan. However DAHL did not request funding for building the Planning Grant projects.
- 1999 Olmstead Act directed states to develop a fiscal plan to include housing for people with I/DD in their state budgets, yet there are no targets in Vermont.
- Our family members have HCBS funding provided by Medicaid for services, and access to entitlement benefits (SSA benefits) for ongoing housing costs.



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