

To whom it may concern:

Since closing Brandon in 1993, there has been virtually no money invested by the State in service supported housing for adults with I/DD.

The State of Vermont needs to immediately create 602 new units of service supported housing. (2023 VTDDC Housing Research Brief) as 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 choices, including choices in housing. The three Act 186 Pilot Planning Grants are contained in the latest Corrective Action Plan. DAIL did not request funding for building the Planning Grant projects.

The 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 adults with developmental disabilities family members have HCBS funding provided by Medicaid for services, as well as entitlement benefits (SSA benefits). This makes them more stable long-term tenants as well as costing fewer state dollars than other populations that have been repeatedly funded over the years. This is by far the MOST vulnerable population, yet they have been receiving the least attention and services from the state. This population tends to NOT have a voice at the table. As a Vermont citizen I offer my strongest support to this effort, and urge you to provide the necessary funds for stable, service supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

Respectfully yours,
James C Hebert MD