

HI

I am a parent of a young man with Down Syndrome in Williston VT, who will need a place to live, and staff to care for him after we, his parents, are gone. He would like to live in the town where he grew up and where he knows people and they know him. He does not want to live in an SLP setting with the instability of moving periodically, this would be incredibly upsetting to him, and undercut his present independence skills.

The 3 pilot grant projects from DAIL should receive funding to implement the projects, and this should be the beginning for a funding stream to build more housing for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

There is a CMS Settings Rule that requires that every person with I/DD should have choices of where to live and the State needs to create this housing to comply with this rule. I am asking that you would include the funding for these projects in the Budget and that you would work to create a long term pipeline to implement construction of this housing until there is enough housing that all adults in Vermont with IDD have this choice.

Below are a number of State wide reasons for making the decision to appropriate funds for this housing, besides the need to care for and allow people with I/DD to live their best lives.

- 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 DAIL 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.

Marla and Timothy McQuiston