

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Housing Advocacy Programs

S. 311 - An act relating to bringing everyone home

Testimony

Sec 47 & Sec.62

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources
and Energy**

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The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) and its Housing Advocacy Programs (HAP)

- ▶ CVOEO is one of the state of Vermont's five community action agencies serving the northwestern part of Vermont that addresses fundamental issues of economic, social, racial, and environmental justice and works with people to achieve economic independence.
- ▶ HAP : Vermont Tenants, Mobile Home Program, Fair Housing Project, Home Family Voucher Program and the Statewide Asylum Seeker Assistance program.



S.311 Sec 47-Appropriation Rental Stabilization Services: \$400,000

- ▶ CVOEO /HAP supports the fundamentals of rental financial assistance, legal assistance along with comprehensive support services as an effective homelessness prevention and housing retention tool.
- ▶ Creation of an Office of Rental Housing Stabilization Services would support and ensure longer-term solutions to Vermont's housing and homelessness crisis.
- ▶ Support 4 FTE including all direct project implementation and administration costs



Service to be Provided

- ▶ One-on-one assistance
- ▶ Consultation
- ▶ Direct referral and follow-up services
- ▶ Direct Housing Support and retention
- ▶ Coordination of services as needed
- ▶ Advocacy



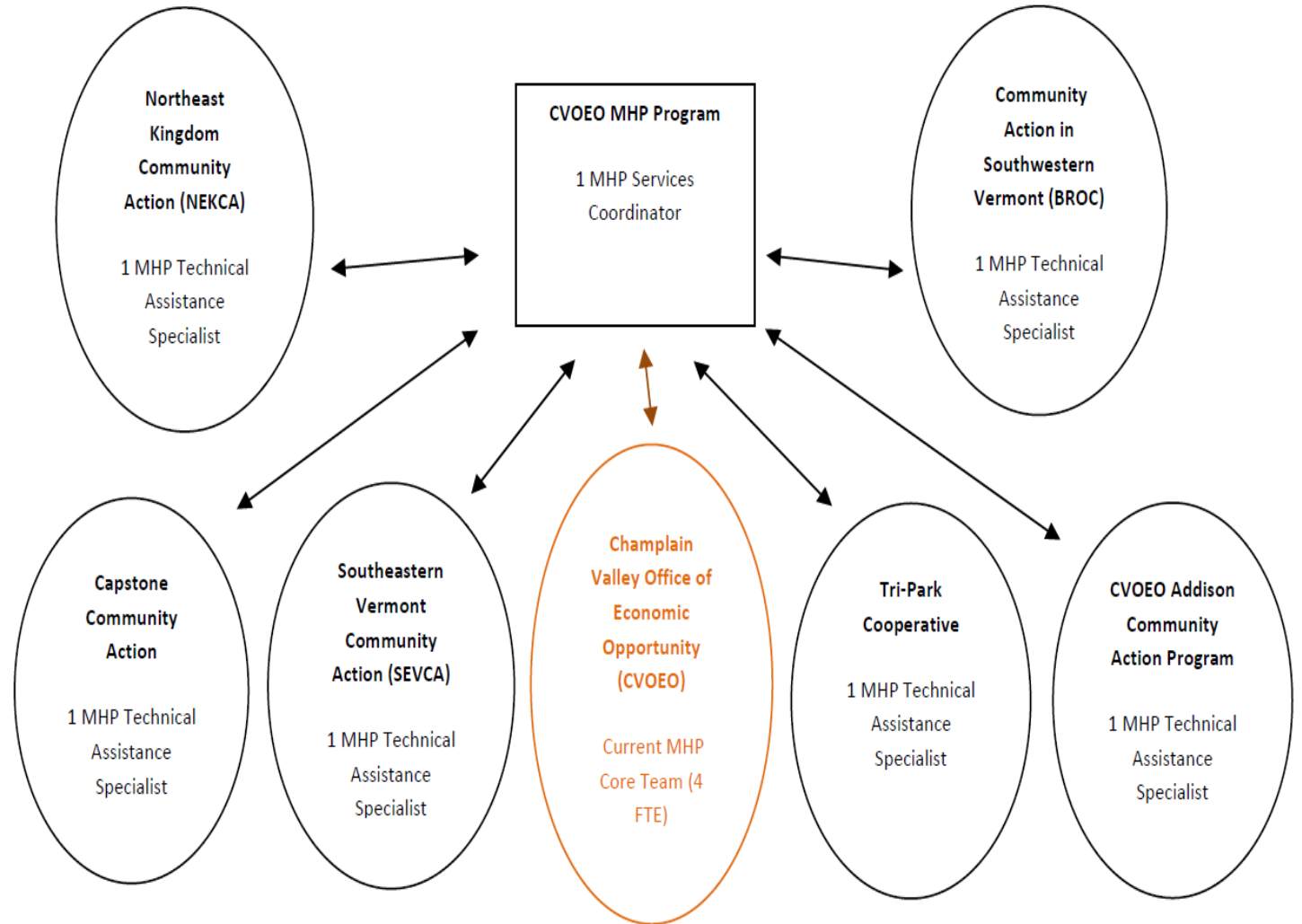
S.311 Sec 62. Mobile Home Technical Assistance Appropriation

- ▶ The Mobile Home Program (MHP) is dedicated to empowering mobile home residents through direct support, community organizing and education while working to protect and improve their housing rights and living conditions.
- ▶ Expansion of CVOEO MHP technical assistance services would ensure:
 - ▶ Current and future state resources are brought to vulnerable mobile home communities.
 - ▶ Support local efforts related to emergency preparedness and flood response.
 - ▶ Effective outreach, support and dissemination of information to mobile home residents- especially during natural disasters.
 - ▶ Efficient management of the many complex situations and challenges experienced by MHP communities.



\$700,000 Mobile Home Technical Assistance Appropriation

- ▶ Total of 7 new full-time hires to provide housing support and coordination of services for at least 500 households statewide.
- ▶ Includes all administration and all direct project costs.
- ▶ 1 Full-time Technical Assistance Coordinator position housed at the main CVOEO office in Burlington.
- ▶ 6 Technical Assistance Specialists placed around the State:
 - ❖ 1 FTE position at Tri-Park Cooperative Housing Corporation (the largest unsubsidized provider of affordable housing in the State with 310 lots)
 - ❖ 1 FTE at CVOEO Addison Community Action Program in a region with the second-largest mobile home park concentration (AHW - 200 lots).
 - ❖ 4 FTEs at the remaining 4 community action agencies serving the State of Vermont: BROCC, Capstone, SEVCA and NECKA.



Services to be provided

- ▶ One-on-one assistance
- ▶ Direct referral and follow-up services
- ▶ Direct Housing Support
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Cooperative Development Support
- ▶ Park closure Support
- ▶ Park sales Support
- ▶ Lot rent increase mediation Support
- ▶ Coordination of services
- ▶ Community Organizing
- ▶ Community Outreach
- ▶ Flood Response and Recovery Support
- ▶ Case Management

\$300,000 Resident Emergency Grants Appropriation

- ▶ Individual Resident Emergency Grants to avoid loss/unsafe housing, will serve at least 75 mobile homeowners:
 - ▶ Accessible to all income-eligible mobile homeowners statewide-80% Area Median Income
 - ▶ Accessible to all mobile homeowners including those on owned-land
 - ▶ Direct financial support: Property taxes, relocation-moving costs including disconnect, reconnect and transport services (up to \$10,000)
 - ▶ Gap funding: Electricity, water and sewer repairs (up to \$5,000)

80% Area Median Income (AMI) for Each County in Vermont

County / Counties	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
Addison County	\$52,450	\$59,950	\$67,450	\$74,900	\$80,900	\$86,900	\$92,900	\$98,900
Bennington County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Caledonia County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Chittenden County	60,100	68,650	77,250	85,800	92,700	99,550	106,400	113,300
Essex County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Franklin County	60,100	68,650	77,250	85,800	92,700	99,550	106,400	113,300
Grand Isle County	60,100	68,650	77,250	85,800	92,700	99,550	106,400	113,300
Lamoille County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Orange County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Orleans County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Rutland County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Washington County	51,200	58,500	65,800	73,100	78,950	84,800	90,650	96,500
Windham County	48,000	54,850	61,700	68,550	74,050	79,550	85,050	90,500
Windsor County	49,350	56,400	63,450	70,500	76,150	81,800	87,450	93,100

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Thank you!

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