

Following the Vermont Department of Health's testimony last week, Sen. White had a question for DCF. I am writing the committee with Sarah Phillips' response to this question.

**Is there a gap where some residents can't receive home weatherization services because they first need vermiculite remediation, but they either don't qualify for remediation funds, or there aren't enough remediation funds available?**

The low-income Home Weatherization Assistance Program braids together ARPA, Zonolite Trust funds and other funding to address vermiculite (asbestos containing insulation) through remediation when it prevents weatherization. This is at no cost to income eligible homeowners. There is enough funding available to meet the need at this time. There are sometimes delays as there are not enough abatement subcontractors. The lack of abatement subcontractors is the significant issue.

When a multi-family property is eligible for weatherization through the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (assuming the landlord is not income eligible), the landlord is responsible for remediation. The Weatherization Program refers the landlord to the Zonolite Trust to support costs. In reality, many landlords choose not to proceed with weatherization due the cost associated with vermiculite remediation, although financing is available. In general, landlords are responsible for addressing any readiness or health and safety issues (not just vermiculite) for their properties before receiving no-cost weatherization services.

The Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program has actually led the nation with pioneering work on how to fund and address vermiculite which prevents weatherization. That said, it