



January 14, 2026

To: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations

From: Chad Simmons, Executive Director, Housing & Homelessness Alliance of VT (HHAV)

HHAV exists to build a Vermont where the fundamental right to housing is enjoyed by all. We advocate for public investments that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable, maximize investments for long-term impact and fund all components of the housing continuum. To that end, HHAV supports the following requests for inclusion in the FY26 BAA and asks the committee to join in our support.

HHAV's FY26 BAA requests include:

- \$5M for VT State Housing Authority's (VSHA) "Voucher Contingency Fund"
- \$1,322,141 for Housing Opportunities Program (HOP) Financial Assistance
- \$1M for Land Access & Opportunity Board's (LAOB) "Homes for All" pre-development seed grants & Community Resilience grants
- \$100K for End Homelessness Vermont's (EHV) disability-focused case management

#### **\$5M for VSHA's "Voucher Contingency Fund"**

Housing vouchers are a vital component to our housing continuum. This rental assistance (vouchers) allows older Vermonters, people with disabilities, veterans and working families to afford a home, especially as rents continue to rise. Vouchers also keep people from falling into homelessness and move those experiencing homelessness out of emergency shelters and motel rooms to permanent housing. The federal government's ongoing underfunding of the voucher program further jeopardizes existing vouchers. **We support VSHA's request of \$5M to create a "Voucher Contingency Fund"** to be used by Public Housing Authorities to stabilize the Housing Voucher program.

#### **\$1,322,141 HOP Financial Assistance**

HOP Financial Assistance provides critical, flexible assistance to people at risk of homelessness or to get people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. Administered through Community Action Program (CAP) agencies and homeless service providers, these funds are provided to households who would become or remain homeless **but for** financial assistance. **We support the request of \$1,322,141** to restore funding lost in FY26.

#### **\$1M for LAOB's "Homes for All" pre-development & Community Resilience grants**

LAOB was created to promote equity for Vermonters who continue to face barriers to land access and homeownership. Their facilitation and coordination are key to important housing partnerships such as the "Homes for All" initiative, providing crucial grant funding for emerging developers and the Community Resilience grant program. **We support the request to restore the \$1M FY26** appropriation for these two programs.



**\$100K EHV's Disability-focused case management & Service navigation efforts**

EHV provides critical case management, service navigation and technical assistance for those experiencing homelessness, including people with disabilities. Their supports in a time of crisis are vital to keeping people alive and connecting them with other service providers, ensuring placement into permanent housing. **We support their request of \$100K** to fund these efforts.

We welcome any questions and opportunities to further support these requests for inclusion in the FY26 BAA.

Many thanks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Simmons', is positioned above the printed name.

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