

# **WE THE UNDERSIGNED are writing to ask the VT State Legislature to support CVOEO's request for \$650,000 to fund the Community Resource Center (CRC) and its critical homeless services for State Fiscal Year 2027.**

As the housing crisis in Chittenden County intensifies, the CRC remains a frontline sanctuary for Burlington's most vulnerable residents. The CRC now serves an average of **131 people every day**, more than **half of whom are strictly unsheltered**.

The CRC is an essential part of Burlington's healthcare and public safety infrastructure—providing food, basic needs, medical supports, and shelter and housing navigation. We strongly support the request for State Funding to keep the Community Resource Center open and providing essential services.

**ACLU of Vermont**  
Montpelier

**AFT Vermont**  
Burlington

**Burlington Fire Department**  
Burlington

**Burlington Police Department**  
Burlington

**Champlain Housing Trust**  
Burlington

**City of South Burlington**  
South Burlington

**End Homelessness Vermont**  
Statewide

**Fletcher Free Library**  
Burlington

**Homeport**  
Burlington

**Howard Center**  
Burlington

**King Street Center**  
Burlington

**Spectrum Youth and Family Services**  
Burlington

**Town of Shelburne**  
Shelburne

**Town of Williston**  
Williston

**University of Vermont Medical Center**  
Essex Junction

**UVMH Home Health and Hospice**  
Colchester

**Vermont Community Wash and Learn and King St Laundry**  
Burlington

*CVOEO's Community Resource Center (CRC) is the largest meal site and drop-in daytime shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the state. CVOEO on their CRC is a critical regional provider that serves our South Burlington neighbors and beyond. Our colleagues at the CRC connect people experiencing homelessness with services and resources, including basic needs, assistance with obtaining vital documents, and referrals to area shelters. The CRC serves some of our most vulnerable community members and the South Burlington City government is thankful for their continued partnership. – Jessie Baker, City Manager of South Burlington*



*As one of the only other public spaces in Burlington where people can spend time and use restrooms without spending money, the Library relies on the Community Resource Center to help carry the daily load of serving the most marginalized members of our community. I am specifically talking about people who are experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental illness. This winter, when the CRC had to close for a few days due to staff sickness, it was very clear that the Library would not be able to operate for very long if the CRC was not part of our community's overall support network. The greatly increased number of people who we found ourselves serving and sometimes managing in terms of behavior for long stretches in the Library during those days required the full attention and time of multiple staff members beyond our regular patron services team, and if it had continued we would not be able to fulfill the regular obligations of our Library mission. Especially during this time of heightened housing crisis and substance use disorder, and the challenges to our economy that we have seen in Burlington as a result, it is essential that the CRC continue to receive full funding and more, to be able to maintain and expand services. – Emer Feeney, Assistant Director at Fletcher Free Library*

