



Date: February 19, 2026

To: Members of the Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

From: Chad Simmons, Executive Director, Vermont Housing & Homelessness Alliance of VT

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 FY27 State Budget.

I'll be honest, this was a tremendously difficult memo and request to write. The needs of Vermonters are too great and too overwhelming right now. People are scared, providers are holding on by a sliver and it feels like the challenges are coming from every direction. The legislature is in an impossible position to choose between one need or crisis over another. While I considered coming to you this evening with a truncated list of budget priorities, I could not in good conscious shortchange any of the critical state investments and programs that save lives and provide safe, decent affordable homes to the people who call...and want to call... Vermont home. Please consider HHAV's priorities as part of your budget construct for FY27. HHAV's full list and narrative of our priorities [can be found here](#).

### **Housing Development, Preservation & Rehabilitation:**

- **\$40M one-time.** Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)  
HHAV supports the full base, statutory share of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) of \$37.4M investment for VHCB in FY27\*. In addition to the base funding, HHAV encourages the state to continue additional one-time investments in FY27 to VHCB to support permeant affordable housing of all types including rental, homeownership, manufactured homes, farmer worker housing, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities housing and housing those experiencing homelessness.
- **\$4M base.** Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP). Rehabilitating our aging rental housing stock is imperative to meeting our state's housing needs. VHIP is a proven tool to bringing rental homes back online, regionally administered by our non-profit network of homeownership centers.\*
- **\$12M base.** Manufactured Home Improvement & Rehabilitation (MHIR) Program. This is a cost-effective and critical tool to support our MHCs across the state and help residents repair their manufactured homes and prepare lots for manufactured home installation.
- **\$3.2M base and one-time.** Land Access & Opportunity Board (LAOB) to support their core functions, advisory powers and programs including shelter for all, community resilience hubs, beginning developer training program, and secure housing coach program.
- **\$400K one-time.** Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)'s Mobile Home Advocacy program, supporting people living in and accessing manufactured housing.

### Rental Assistance

- **\$3M one-time.** Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) Bridge Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) would create a VT-based, ongoing tenant and project-based rental subsidy for the lowest income Vermonters modeled after the federal Housing Choice Voucher program.
- **\$1.5M one-time.** CVOEO's HOME family rental assistance provides bridge rental assistance to families with children experiencing homelessness. This will create an additional 100 rapid re-housing vouchers.

### Homelessness Response: Prevention, Shelter & Emergency Shelter, Services & Supports

- **\$41M base and one-time.** Housing Opportunities Program (HOP). Provides funding to operate emergency shelters, essential services for shelter guests, transitional housing, rapid re-housing for homeless individuals and families, financial assistance, Coordinated Entry (CE) and administration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- **\$35M base and one-time.** GA Emergency Hotel/Motel shelter. Funds the hotel/motel use as emergency shelter. We recommend eligibility criteria be simplified, decreasing the costs of administration.
- **\$11M one-time.** Homeless shelter expansion, allowing for community-driven, flexible and convertible shelter expansion, allowing communities to develop the shelters that meet their unique community needs.
- **\$1M one-time.** VSHA's rental arrears program providing critical rent stability, preventing further homelessness from occurring.
- HHAV also supports our member and partner requests as part of a larger homelessness response construct currently being considered in the Human Services Committee including for the Community Action Agencies (VCAP), CVOEO Community Resource Center (CRC) shelter operations, additional HOP Financial Assistance funding, End Homelessness Vermont (EHvt) and financial support for municipalities to address homelessness. These can be [found here](#), starting on page 7.

### Homeownership Downpayment Assistance for Low-Moderate Income Households

- State Housing Tax Credit time-limited extension and expansion for Downpayment Assistance (DPA). Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA)'s DPA program is a critical affordability tool for income-qualified Vermonters looking to buy a home. HHAV supports their time-limited request to expand the tax credit from \$250k/year to \$350k/year and extend the sale of these credits by five years.

\*Aligns with the Governor's FY2027 Budget Recommend