

Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Governors budget. I am one of over 175 parents in the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative advocating for permanent service supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities (I/DD) who receive support services on a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver.

Please support the following:

1. New permanent position at DAIL – Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living – to support housing development and housing process for participants in HCBS services. This position is included in S.328 Senate Housing Committee bill, and recommended by the Act 69 Road Home Report;
2. New funding for Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to develop I/DD service supported housing – there is no money in the Governor's recommended budget specifically for I/DD housing. The S.328 Senate Housing Bill includes \$3 Million – the Road Home Report recommends \$5-10 million per year for 5 years;
3. New funding for Bridge Rental Assistance – the Road Home report recommends the State fund rental assistance for participants in DAIL's HCBS programs- similar to the state funded rental assistance for participants in the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) programs. The Road Home recommends \$1-2 million dollars per year to be similar to DMH. There may be a Bridge Rental Assistance Program that would include DAIL/HCBS in bill H.494.
4. If #3 above is not funded, there is an immediate need for 25-30 state funded rental assistance vouchers to support the tenants in the Service Supported housing the legislature has invested in – e.g. the DDHI pilot projects in Waterbury and Burlington, and other new I/DD projects in the VHCB pipeline.

I urge you to include these requests in the Budget so that there can be true choices in service supported housing for adults with I/DD in Vermont.

Thank you,  
Collins Twing  
South Royalton