

Joshua Davis
Executive Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Joshua Davis and I am the Executive Director of Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA). I am writing to respectfully ask the committee to support funding for housing case management services — \$1,000,000 for Permanent Housing Navigators and \$500,000 for Housing Retention Specialists.

Moving from homelessness into stable housing is not a simple transition. Even when rental assistance or a housing opportunity exists, the process is complex and often overwhelming. Individuals must navigate applications, documentation requirements, medical and mental health systems, benefits programs, and landlord relationships — often while recovering from crisis and instability. Many people we serve do not have basic identification documents such as birth certificates, Social Security cards, or state IDs. Without these, they cannot sign a lease, apply for benefits, or access services. Case managers help people rebuild their legal identity by securing these documents and then guiding them through the various systems necessary to obtain the supports that make housing stability possible.

Case managers provide the guidance that makes housing opportunities workable. They help gather records, complete paperwork, connect individuals to health care and income supports, and remain engaged long enough for a person to successfully obtain and maintain housing.

These services include both Permanent Housing Navigators — helping individuals locate and secure housing — and Housing Retention Specialists — helping people remain successfully housed once placed. Both are essential. Without support to access housing, people remain homeless. Without support to remain housed, people cycle back into homelessness. Case management converts housing resources into successful housing outcomes and is a foundational part of Vermont's efforts to reduce homelessness and protect public investments in housing.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to support the request to fund \$1,000,000 for Permanent Housing Navigators and \$500,000 for Housing Retention Specialists.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Vermonters.

Sincerely,

Joshua Davis
Executive Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action