

TO: House Appropriations Committee
FROM: House General and Housing Committee
DATE: January 15, 2026
RE: BAA funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

The House General and Housing Committee writes to indicate its support for the one-time repurposing of \$5 million in the Budget Adjustment Act of the fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of assisting the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) and municipal housing authorities to prevent the involuntary termination of households from Public Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) programs due to federal funding shortfalls. The slow or elimination of the decline of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing choice vouchers available in Vermont is critical at this time.

The General and Housing Committee heard testimony on the issue from the Executive Director of VSHA, the Executive Director of the Montpelier Housing Authority, the Executive Director of the Rutland Housing Authority, and the Director of Community Relations of the Champlain Housing Trust.

The testimony has made clear that this proposed one-time strategic investment will serve to slow or eliminate the decline in available Section 8 vouchers by allowing housing authorities to keep more vouchers active in 2026. At minimum, these funds allow Vermont to hold harmless against voucher losses and avoid a reduction in HUD Section 8 funding in 2027 and future years as the number of active vouchers in the current year drives HUD funding for future years. These vouchers are essential both for the resident families involved, but also the fundamental health of our most dedicated housing providers who depend on the income from the vouchers. Thus, this is a critical one-time strategic investment that will carry forward in future years and will help maintain our affordable housing system.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any questions.

Sincerely,

Marc Mihaly
Chair
For the General and Housing Committee.