



House Committee on General and Housing

Addendum to: Testimony on H.772, H.399, H.440, H.688, H.756 - February 5, 2026

Jess Hyman, Housing Advocacy Programs Associate Director, jhyman@cvoeo.org

Karin Ames, Housing Education Coordinator, kames@cvoeo.org

To complement the full text and slides from the Feb. 5 testimony, we respectfully submit the following appropriations request for consideration alongside the proposed combined Landlord-Tenant bill.

Policy alone can't ensure that landlords and tenants understand their rights and responsibilities, form positive relationships with each other, or that people will be successful in their homes.

There is an important link between education, information, and communication and housing stability and sustainability. We support several appropriations to ensure that both landlords and tenants understand their rights and responsibilities; offer timely financial capability education so that people can take charge of their finances and sustain their rent; and support effective communication between renters and landlords. All of these are essential to housing stability – and most importantly, they can help resolve small issues before they become big problems. We spend so much time, energy, and money responding to crises in Vermont. Investing in these foundational supports will help people be more self-sufficient, improve communication between landlords and tenants, and stop homelessness before it starts.

- **Landlord and Tenant Education:** \$200k (funding to support and expand existing efforts at CVOEO). This includes basic landlord-tenant resources and information, fair housing, and the Preferred Renter Certificate Program, all offered statewide.
- **Financial Coaching:** \$500k (\$100k per Community Action Agency in additional funds to boost existing state support of \$34k per CAP). Increasing financial capability builds confidence and helps people develop skills to move away from financial crisis and into financial security, including being able to sustain their rent. Financial coaching provides ongoing accountability and support, helping participants stay on track, navigate crises, and adapt their plans. This long-term relationship is a key reason results endure over time.
- **Landlord Liaisons:** \$600k (\$200k for Capstone and \$100k for each other Community Action Agency to replace temporary ERAP funding). Landlord liaisons work directly with both landlords to navigate difficult situations and assist with timely and effective communications. Landlords view these positions as very helpful because they work with both the tenants and the landlords. The landlord liaisons are integrated with the CAP agencies' housing supports and will work closely with the education team on the Preferred Renter Certificate curriculum.