

Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Co-Director, ornella@vhcb.org
Jean Hamilton, Co-Director, jean@vhcb.org

Please contact us with your questions and thoughts about the Land Access and Opportunity Board. The LAOB belongs to all Vermonters; we are here to help the State of Vermont better serve your communities.

February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Mihaly and Members of the House Committee on General and Housing Committee,

The Land Access and Opportunity Board's FY27 budget is \$3,237,734. This budget supports programs that are central to this committee's goals:

- \$550,000 Homes for All Developer Training Program to provide training and early stage financing to beginning and small-scale housing developers
- \$400,000 Community Resilience Awards to support community-led emergency preparedness hubs
- \$280,000 Community Governance Capacity Building and Case Studies to make Vermont's land access and housing programs more just and equitable
- \$660,000 Secure Housing Coaches to provide and train culturally-empowering housing navigation in the state
- \$1.27M in Board, staff, and administrative costs. See LAOB's full FY27 budget below.

The Governor has recommended LAOB in the base budget at \$1,680,530, representing a 3% increase over our FY26 appropriation. To deliver LAOB's FY27 programming, our budget requires this recommendation plus an additional \$1,537,204.

The programs launching have been in development for the past 2 years. Throughout that time, we engaged hundreds of Vermonters both inside and outside of government to understand gaps and to design efficient and high impact next steps in building housing and land access for all Vermonters. These projects are shovel ready, have the momentum and support of partners and teams ready to work in new and effective ways. Funding the LAOB's FY27 budget of \$3,237,734 is a responsible next step to ensure Vermonters see the full return on the Legislature's investment. Underfunding the LAOB will slow down critical momentum we have established to make it easier for Vermonters to take care of themselves and their communities.

Per Statute, LAOB works both to make long term improvements in the State of Vermont's ability to deliver effective housing and land access systems as well as immediate investments (grant making). Because of this, LAOB recommends

- Increase the base appropriation to \$1,784,809
- Appropriate FY27 One-Time funding at \$1,432,925

Please let us know what additional information we can provide you.

Thank you,

Ornella Matta-Figueroa
Co-Director

Jean Myung Hamilton
Co-Director

LAOB Budget	FY27	
Land Access and Opportunity Board FY27	\$	3,217,734
LAOB Staffing and Fringe	\$	1,764,302
Admin Staff	\$	368,566
Program Staff	\$	980,779
Directors	\$	414,957
LAOB Operating Costs	\$	118,232
Staff mileage, staff conferences and travel communications including translation/interpretation, website launch,	\$	118,232
LAOB Board Costs	\$	55,200
Board member per diems, meeting costs, conference attendance, travel	\$	55,200
LAOB Programming Costs	\$	1,280,000
Homes For All Grant Fund	\$	400,000
Homes for All Developer Community of Practice	\$	150,000
Secure Housing Coaches - Program Supplies	\$	50,000
Community Disaster Readiness Grants	\$	400,000
Advisory Powers Work Groups and Collaborative Planning Initiatives	\$	150,000
Community Governance Capacity Building Mini-Grants	\$	130,000
Revenue	\$	3,237,734
Proposed FY27 Appropriation	\$	3,217,734
SOV Carry Forward		
EPA Thriving Communities Grant	\$	-
Donations and Fee for Service	\$	20,000
Net Income/(Loss)	\$	20,000

Notes

FY26+1 FTE Contract Manager; +50% increase in marginal administrative services; +3% COL
 FY26+1 FTE Housing Coach for Disability Housing; +3% COL
 FY26+3% COL

20 Grants up to \$25,000/unit flex capital to advance project readiness for emerging developers
 Online network platform \$20,000;
 Network workshops and events: \$30,000
 Online network platform \$20,000;
 Network workshops and events: \$30,000
 Grants up to \$50k x at least 8 communities for Resilience and Readiness Tool Kits: equipment, infrastructure, Policy problem-solving workshops: Subject matter consultants; meeting costs, public policy processes re: land use and housing

Land Access and Opportunity Board	FY27		FY26	
Total	\$	3,217,734	\$	1,613,582
Base	\$	1,784,809	\$	1,613,582
One Time	\$	1,432,925	\$	-