

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HOUSING INITIATIVE - **LEGISLATIVE ASK**

The Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI) is a Vermont parent-run advocacy group representing more than 175 families statewide. Our mission is to advance the creation of choices in permanent, affordable, service-supported housing for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) who have significant support needs.

DDHI thanks the Legislature and the Act 69 State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee¹ for its leadership in advancing a statewide plan, “The Road Home,” to create over 600 units of service-supported housing.

We are asking the Legislature to act on 4 points of a 13 piece plan.

- ▶ **\$1-2M to create state funded vouchers** for Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) participants in parity with vouchers for Dept Mental Health participants.
- ▶ **Invest \$10M annually for 5 years** to create a dedicated capital funding stream administered through VT Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) in collaboration with DDS stakeholders.
- ▶ **Ensure capacity at AHS and DAIL for statewide support** by filling one open housing specialist position within Agency of Human Services (AHS) and funding one housing specialist position at the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL).
- ▶ **Create an advisory committee for implementation** to support research, guide regulatory and policy changes, monitor progress, and report annually to the Legislature.

The remaining recommendations in the Act 69 report are the responsibilities of existing state and partner capacities and do not require additional legislative action at this time. The four priorities outlined above require legislative action to ensure the plan moves from vision to implementation to address Vermont’s long-standing shortage of safe, permanent housing options for this marginalized population.



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¹ Act 69 State Housing and Residential Services Planning Committee representation included: Vermont Legislature; Agency of Human Services; Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living; Department of Housing & Community Development; Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council; Vermont Care Partners; Green Mountain Self-Advocates; Vermont Housing & Conservation Board; Office of the State Treasurer; Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative; Associated General Contractors of Vermont