



Land Access Opportunity Board

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House General & Housing

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Land Access and Opportunity Board Touchstones:

1. Listen generously. Speak your truth from your heart & mind.
2. Make the way we work together an example of what's possible.
3. Trust that we all hold a piece of the puzzle & we need each other's pieces to understand the whole picture

Agenda for Today

1. Shared understanding - What is the LAOB?
2. Reflections on Vermont Housing Policies
3. Takeaways
 - Hope and Courage - we can do hard things
 - Invest in things that are working: LAOB
 - Slow down Act 181 roll out - measure twice, cut once
 - Acknowledge the friction - we are at a tipping point



What are the Land Access and Opportunity Board (LAOB)'s Advisory Powers?

Act 182, 2022

10 V.S.A. § 325u (a) Creation.

There is created the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board to promote improvements in access to woodlands, farmland, and land and home ownership for Vermonters from historically marginalized or disadvantaged communities who continue to face barriers to land and home ownership.

Act 182, 2022

10 V.S.A. § 325u (f) Powers and duties of the Board.

LAOB has Advisory Powers → SOV and affiliated institutions

- Retain experts from disadvantaged communities
- Put data at the center of policy and program analysis
- Develop strategies to overcome structural barriers

LAOB has Grant Making Powers →marginalized communities & individuals

- Improve access to land, housing, safety, sustainability and health

What are the problems we see?

- Affordability & prosperity rely on us unlocking the power of our people and community-led solutions - **What do we have when we don't have enough money?**
- Vermont needs more people power: families, workers, participation in public processes.
- Disconnect between public institutions and the people they are supposed to serve.
- Silos and false objectives prevent us from working together to understand the real problems and create innovative solutions.
- Compounding crises are threatening our communities materially and psychologically.
- Those who are most vulnerable are hit hardest by all crises.
- The lack of effective solutions is inefficient, expensive & demoralizing.

Act 181/Act 250

- Need to slow the roll out & invest in comprehensive understanding and of disproportionate impacts and mitigations
- Tier 1 concerns
 - Community capacity to manage permitting
 - Risk for exclusionary participation
- Impacts on rural communities vs impacts on growth areas/downtowns

Land security - Housing security & Food security

- Need to map strategic community food lands
- Every Vermonter has walkable access to a place to grow food

Meaningfully address capacity gaps

- VERTA report → lack of civic capacity
- Fund Community Resilience Hubs

Act 69

- Disabilities Housing: Listen to the people closest to the problems.

Invest in the LAOB

- What do we do have when we dont have enough money → better problem solving

Next Steps

- Working together to understand the problem and make solutions
 - Land Use Planning - Seeing the whole picture
 - Right to grow food
 - Food Security Roadmap Coalition
- We have more to share, we'd like to come back and tell you about the programs we are working on.

Act 2022 creates LAOB	Sunrise Report submitted	\$1M appropriated - one time	\$1.63M appropriated - base	\$1M reverted
\$200,000 appropriated - one time	\$1.2M appropriated - one time			

2022	2023	2024	2025
LAOB convened by ORE	LAOB Priority Objectives Adopted	MOU signed with VHCB for administrative services	<p>2 Co-Directors Hired</p> <p>Program Research Systems Resource Mapping Working Groups & Advisory Powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority Housing Projects ● CCB - 166 ● Act 59 ● DDHI ● Community Resilience

FY26 Budget Adjustment - \$1M for LAOB to reinstate FY26 grant programs

Homes for All Grant Fund - \$750,000 to support pre-development & seed capital for emerging developers

Community Resilience Hub Grants - \$250,000 to support 5 additional Community Resilience Hub Projects. See [Community Resilience Hub Toolkit | Built by Vermont Flood Survivors](#)

FY27 Budget

LAOB Budget	FY27	Notes	Revenue	
Land Access and Opportunity Board FY27 Budget	\$ 3,217,734		Proposed FY27 Appropriation	\$ 3,217,734
LAOB Staffing and Fringe - 10 FTE	\$ 1,764,302		SOV Carry Forward	\$ 68,000
LAOB Operating Costs - Staff mileage, staff conferences and travel communications including translation/interpretation, website launch, strategic planning.	\$ 118,232		Contracted Revenue	\$ 20,000
LAOB Board Costs - Board member per diems, meeting costs, conference attendance, travel reimbursement	\$ 55,200		Donations and Fee for Service	
LAOB Programming Costs	\$ 1,280,000	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	Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 88,000
Homes For All Grant Fund	\$ 400,000			
Homes for All Developer Community of Practice	\$ 150,000	Online network platform \$20,000; Network workshops and events: \$30,000		
Secure Housing Coaches - Program Supplies	\$ 50,000	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, planning		
Community Disaster Readiness Grants	\$ 400,000	Grants up to \$50k x at least 8 communities for Resilience and Readiness Tool Kits: equipment, infrastructure, planning Policy problem-solving workshops: Subject matter consultants; meeting costs, supplies		
Advisory Powers Work Groups and Collaborative Planning Initiatives	\$ 150,000	Grants to support civic engagement with public policy processes re: land use and housing		
Community Governance Capacity Building Mini-Grants	\$ 130,000			

Discussion & Questions

