

Providing Permanently Affordable Housing in Northwestern Vermont Vermont's HomeOwnership Centers and Homebuyer Education



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# NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont





#### **FY24 Households Served**

#### **856**

Homebuyer Education and Counseling

# Homebuyer Education & Counseling

- Offered in person or online at a cost of \$99
- No income qualifications
- Volunteer support from local experts
- In person classes offered monthly, or more
- Includes follow-up one-on-one with HUD certified counselor
- At Champlain Housing Trust, courses have been interpreted into eight languages, with two more to come.
- Participant receives certificate of completion which gives them access to other resources



#### Additional Benefits

- Clients between 2007 2009 were <u>one-</u> <u>third less likely</u> to become delinquent than those who had not taken prepurchase education and counseling.
- National research has shown that these services are of value to consumers, <u>especially for people of color</u>.
- Ongoing access to housing counseling to prevent delinquency or foreclosure.



## Partnership with Habitat for Humanity



#### Manufactured Home Loan Program



"I've got great neighbors. I'm close to everything. I'm in my own home." *Nicole Daniels* 

#### Request

- These programs raise dedicated charitable dollars and piece together support from various fee-for-service activities – and still all run a deficit.
- Support the NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont's Homebuyer and Counseling Programs with a \$500,000 appropriation, ideally in base funding.



## Draft Language

#### Sec. XX. APPROPRIATION; HOMEOWNERSHIP CENTERS

The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2026 for grants to be made for the purpose of providing homebuyer education, financial literacy counseling, and foreclosure prevention programs operated by the five NeighborWorks America affiliated HomeOwnership Centers. Chris Donnelly Champlain Housing Trust chris@champlainhousingtrust.org

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