

Date: 1/21/2025
To: Members of the committee
From: Frank Knaack
Subject: HHAV - Responses to Committee Questions

Hello Members of the House Committee on General and Housing,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify earlier this month. There were a few questions from the Committee that I wanted to follow up on. Please find the information below. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you again for your time.

- Question: Is there any data on the number of people in the GA hotel/motel program who came from out of state?
- Answer: VT Digger/VPR did a story on this issue last year. [Here](#) is a link to the article. The article notes [data from the Agency of Human Services](#) that found that just 37 households out of just over 1,000 surveyed in the hotel program came from out of state, so less than four percent. The reporter then interviewed David Riegel (Director of Housing Policy and Planning for the Agency of Human Services) about whether that small number surprised him and [he said](#) "I wouldn't call it surprising. I think that that narrative [that folks are coming from out of state] has been out there, you know, for a while, but I don't know that there's ever been any evidence to support it."

In addition, the reporter interviewed Gregg Colburn, a University of Washington professor who researches issues related to homelessness, [who noted that](#) "what you don't see is people congregating in generous states. There's basically no statistical relationship between generosity and rates of homelessness. So if the magnet really were a driver here, we should see some relationship between generosity and rates of homelessness at the state level. We don't find any of that."

- Question: Is there a COVID-era federal housing voucher program that allowed/allows folks in receipt of the voucher to use it anywhere in the country?
- Answer: Yes - Housing and Urban Developments Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program provides mobility across the USA, provided there's a receiving housing agency that can administer the voucher. This is not a COVID-era feature, it's been a feature of the HCV program since the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 was passed by Congress, which brought many reforms to the program including mandating portability of HCVs. Kathleen Berk from the VT State Housing Authority is an expert on this and would be happy to discuss with any Committee members. Her email is kathleen@vsha.org.
- Question: Can Committee members see the number of unhoused people in Vermont by jurisdiction?
- Answer: Yes. Please see the appendix in the VT 2024 Point in Time Count report, which can be found [here](#) (beginning on p. 15). You can also see more recent numbers from the Coordinated Entry dashboard [here](#).

Thank you again for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Frank