



# Clara Martin Center Housing Program Update – April 2026

The Safe Haven program has been in existence since 1998, and has been one of the only housing resources for homeless individuals in Orange County, utilizing peer support for programming and infrastructure. Safe Haven is a vital resource in Orange, Washington, and Windsor counties that provides housing and affiliated services for homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness.

1998

- HUD funding awarded to open Safe Haven - 6 bed transitional living residence - 1st program in state to pair a community mental health agency with an established peer program (CMC, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, NAMI-VT).

2014

- HUD policy shift to support permanent housing instead of transitional housing - result in cut of HUD funding and decrease from 6 beds to 4 beds
- Chris's Place, 2-bed crisis program opened following TS Irene, relocated to Safe Haven site with shared staffing model that included persons with lived experience

2019

- 28 South Main Street 4-unit housing project opened with DMH and other state agency housing and operational support; restores beds in region that were lost due to prior HUD funding cut
- DMH provides operational support to Safe Haven to serve uninsured / underinsured individuals

2025

- DMH transitions individuals served through the Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) Program to a new insurance benefit, TPL63 (Third Party Liability 63), and restricts who can be served at residential programs to only those with TPL63 designation; decreased admissions due to this new barrier.

2026

- DMH proposes elimination of funding to Safe Haven (\$136,830 Investment GCF) as it's seen as a "one-off" program
- AHS directs all crisis beds to transition to integrated PIP beds - no additional funding provided for this new programming at CMC
- CMC Board of Trustees votes to close programs after financial review shows reduced funding and increased costs for integrated crisis bed program would result in \$400,000k yearly deficit to CMC

Future

- CMC plans to submit application under the RHT Recovery Residence RFP in attempt to maintain some housing resources in region - requires new program development, staffing models, and funding after the first year is not guaranteed.
- Continued discussions with the VT State Housing Authority on future opportunities based on changing HUD priorities