

**Vermont
House and Human Services Committee
Testimony
2.13.25**

*In 2024, CVOEO programs
served over 23,000 adults and
over 11,500 Households*





VERMONT
COMMUNITY ACTION
PARTNERSHIP

VCAP is requesting \$15.8 million in HOP grant funding in the FY26 budget, a \$6 million increase – for homelessness prevention services

- Direct Financial Asst for Unhoused VTers \$1M
- Statewide HOME Family Voucher Program \$2.4M
- Increased staffing/support for housing navigation, scatter site units, case mgmt \$1.35M
- ERAP funded case management positions \$1.275M

Greatest Challenges / Gaps

- Growing challenge of homelessness including unsheltered and unhoused individuals who are older and /or have medical needs and other disabilities
- Gap in specialized shelters and appropriate level of care for special populations
- No Statewide Integrated System of Care Supported at the State Level
- No integrated Services at Shelter Sites
- No roadmap to end homelessness (Outreach to Shelter to Housing with Prevention)
- Gap in low-barrier care (outreach/shelter) for special populations (inc. Unsheltered)
- Workforce Challenges

Example - Community Resource Center

- 3300 unique individuals annually
- Avg 135 people per day/204 high
- 48 % - Disability
- 24 % - Over 55

CVOEO Successes – Strategies that Work

- Community Resource Center – AHS/ DMH outreach and integrated service site
- HOME Family Vouchers
- Low Barrier Shelters
- Non congregate Shelters – increased housing/ decreased early exits
- Providing medical and mental health services on site (Samaritan House/Champlain Place)
- HOP Financial Assistance Funding
- Hiring people with lived experience – Peer Coaching

Policy or Programmatic Recommendations

Practice

1. Increase HOP funding for the Community Action Agencies
2. Increase DMH/AHS Outreach Funding
3. Develop appropriate level of care shelters/housing for special populations
4. Increase HOME Family Vouchers
5. Provide integrated/specialized services in shelters (medical, mental health, substance use)
6. 4 new mobile home communities (600 lots)
7. Ensure nursing homes and residential care homes are open to people experiencing homelessness
8. At a minimum ensure adequate shelter statewide from November 15th to April 15th

Policy

We must make the choice to shelter and support every person in our state.

Created a Statewide Integrated Service System of Care – Roadmap to End Homelessness

Expand eligibility as described in H 91

Expand Permanent Supportive Housing

Support a statewide, reimbursable peer coaching model

Support Statewide Just Cause Eviction Protections

Support Rent stabilization (H.13)