



STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Wood and Representative Scheu
FROM: Brendan Atwood, Agency of Human Services
DATE: March 17, 2026
SUBJECT: H.938 Written Comments

Dear Chair Wood and Chair Scheu,

The Agency of Human Services appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments on H.938 following its passage from House Human Services. The feedback and comments contained within this memo are specific to the appropriations section of H.938, a draft of which was shared with the Agency for review, and do not reflect an exhaustive list of the programmatic and technical feedback the Agency has on this bill.

The Agency appreciates that the overall level of appropriations in H.938 is generally aligned with the Governor's Recommended Budget for State Fiscal Year 2027. However, there are important distinctions in how those funds are allocated across categories. To enable a meaningful comparison between the Committee's proposed allocations and the Governor's Recommended Budget, the Agency requests additional clarity on the definitions of several categories, including supportive services, prevention and diversion, and case management. This clarity is necessary to determine how these categories align with the Agency's existing framework, assess differences in funding levels (e.g., prevention investments), and identify whether the proposed structure introduces new activities or omits essential components. In addition, certain services—such as the GA contracted call center and the Homeless Management Information System—do not appear to be explicitly accounted for in the current draft.

Related to the request for additional clarity regarding the "case management" category, the Agency also requests clarification regarding the twenty-one FTE positions included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. It is not clear how H.938 intends to allocate these positions and/or the funding associated with those positions among State government and community partners. This distinction has potentially significant operational and fiscal implications, and may present logistical challenges that would need to be addressed.

Finally, the Agency requests clarity on the relationship between programmatic changes that are not scheduled to take full effect until State Fiscal Year 2028 and the more immediate, prescriptive appropriations proposed for State Fiscal Year 2027. This timing mismatch may

create implementation challenges. To address this, the Agency recommends appropriating the funds for the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum to align with the original Governor’s recommended budget for State Fiscal Year 2027, with the Agency returning to the Legislature with more detailed allocation recommendations that are aligned with the full program design in the following fiscal year.

Included below is a chart designed to show the difference between the Governor’s recommended budget and the Committee’s budget proposal in this bill, as far as we understand it. We also offer the following additional context on the non-GF portions of the budget to inform the Committee’s deliberations. A portion of the Global Commitment Funds (\$202k) must be spent in Addison County, but can be spent on a wide variety of HOP activities. The remaining \$3.4M must be tied to Permanent or Family Supportive Housing, and it can only be used for those individuals who are Medicaid eligible within the program. Secondly, the federal funds in OEO’s HOP awards are composed of several Federal sources. We put the federal appropriations in the charts below based on where we are currently utilizing them, realizing that there may be other eligible expenses within the parameters of how they need to be administered.

<i>in millions</i>	Potential Wood Amendment					Gov rec					Delta				
	Base	1x	FF	GC	Total	Base	1x	FF	GC	Total	Base	1x	FF	GC	Total
HOP	-	-	-	-	-	40.13	-	1.15	0.20	41.48	(36.30)	-	(1.15)	(0.20)	(37.65)
Prevention and Diversion	4.57	-	-	0.03	4.60	-	-	-	-	-	4.57	-	-	0.03	4.60
Shelter Operations	27.88	-	0.21	0.14	28.23	-	-	-	-	-	24.05	-	0.21	0.14	24.40
Shelter Development	2.40	3.00	-	-	5.40	-	6.00	-	-	6.00	2.40	(3.00)	-	-	(0.60)
Supportive Services	1.45	-	0.51	0.03	2.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.45	-	0.51	0.03	2.00
DV	4.39	-	0.11	-	4.50	-	-	-	-	-	4.39	-	0.11	-	4.50
Hotels/Motels	6.56	15.85	-	-	22.41	0.55	13.12	-	-	13.67	6.01	2.73	-	-	8.74
Family Hotel/Motel	-	-	-	-	-	7.88	-	-	-	7.88	(7.88)	-	-	-	(7.88)
Eligibility Staffing	-	-	-	-	-	2.24	2.06	-	-	4.30	(2.24)	(2.06)	-	-	(4.30)
Case Management	5.80	-	-	-	5.80	1.28	-	-	-	1.28	4.53	-	-	-	4.53
PSH/FSH	0.78	-	-	3.42	4.20	0.86	-	-	3.42	4.28	(0.08)	-	-	-	(0.08)
Rental assistance	3.00	-	-	-	3.00	2.15	-	-	-	2.15	0.85	-	-	-	0.85
Municipal Grants	-	0.50	-	-	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.50	-	-	0.50
Emergency Cold Weather	-	1.50	-	-	1.50	1.30	-	-	-	1.30	(1.30)	1.50	-	-	0.20
Other	-	0.19	0.31	-	0.50	0.29	-	-	-	0.29	(0.29)	0.19	0.31	-	0.21
Total	56.83	21.03	1.15	3.62	82.63	56.68	21.18	1.15	3.62	82.63	0.15	(0.15)	-	-	0.00

We thank the Committee for their time and consideration and are happy to respond to any follow-up questions.

Respectfully,

Brendan Atwood
 Director of Policy and Program Integration
 Agency of Human Services