

3SquaresVT Awareness Day

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Lindsay Quenneville Testimony

Community member

Chair Lyons and committee members,

Thank you for reading this. My name is Lindsay Quenneville, and I am a community member living in Duxbury. I'm writing today to discuss 3SquaresVT and to ask you to fund necessary administration costs to operate 3SquaresVT in our state with an additional \$6.3 million for state fiscal year 2027 to counter federal funding changes. Full funding for 3SquaresVT administration is critical to keep this program available for all who are eligible in Vermont.

As a former 3SquaresVT recipient in 2025, I feel strongly about the need for full funding of this program's administration because of how essential it was during a time of crisis in my life. After suffering a serious knee injury that required surgery, I was unable to work for six weeks. Because I was employed by a small business, I did not have access to paid medical leave. As a result, I faced significant financial hardship and stress, including difficulty affording food during nearly two months without income.

Without the assistance of Ari on Vermont Foodbank's 3SquaresVT team, I would not have been able to afford groceries while I was out of work. Ari's guidance and support were immeasurably helpful during an incredibly stressful period. Having access to nutritious food allowed me to properly fuel my body during recovery, which supported my healing and significantly reduced my anxiety. The application process and medical exemption through 3SquaresVT were smooth and accessible during an already challenging time thanks to the support I received from the benefit assister I worked with. They helped me find the correct forms and made sure they were properly filled out and submitted to receive a medical exemption.

Beyond individual impact, adequate administrative funding is essential to ensure 3SquaresVT remains accessible, efficient, and responsive to Vermonters' needs. Administrative staff play a critical role in processing applications, determining eligibility, managing medical exemptions, and preventing service disruptions—especially as federal funding changes place additional strain on state systems. Without sufficient administrative resources, eligible Vermonters may face delays or barriers to receiving benefits, undermining the effectiveness of a program designed to provide timely food assistance during periods of hardship.

I request that you fund necessary administration costs to operate 3SquaresVT in our state with an additional \$6.3 million for state fiscal year 2027 to counter federal funding changes. This request is critical in keeping the program available for all Vermonters who are eligible.

Thank you for listening and taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Quenneville