



Land Access & Opportunity Board

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Land Access and Opportunity Board Touchstones:

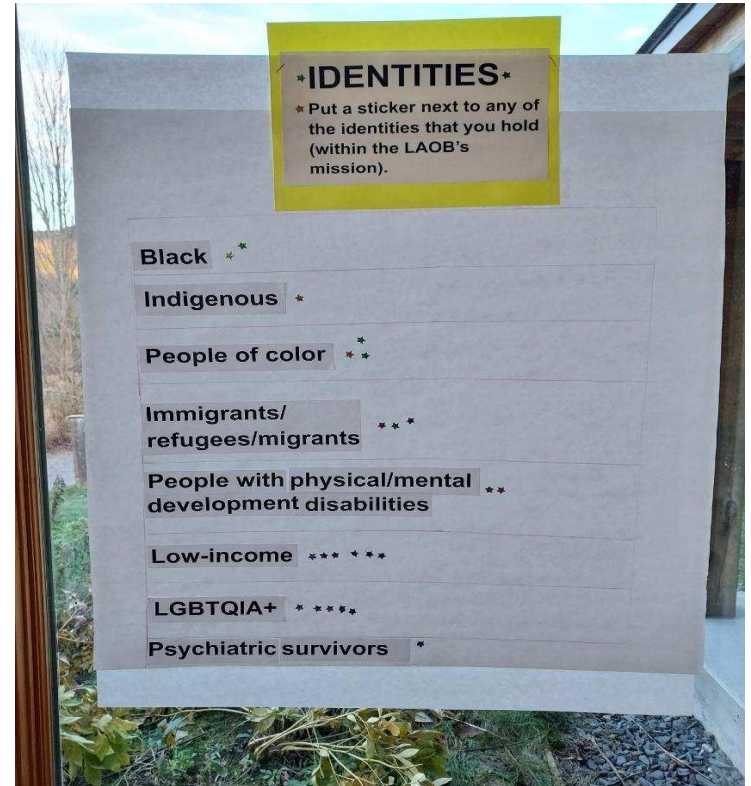
1. Listen generously. Speak your truth from your heart & mind.
2. Make the way we work together an example of what's possible.
3. Trust that we all hold a piece of the puzzle & we need each other's pieces to understand the whole picture

Act 182, 2022

Created the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board to promote improvements in access to woodlands, farmland, and land and home ownership for Vermonters from historically marginalized or disadvantaged communities who continue to face barriers to land and home ownership.

LAOB Appointing Authorities

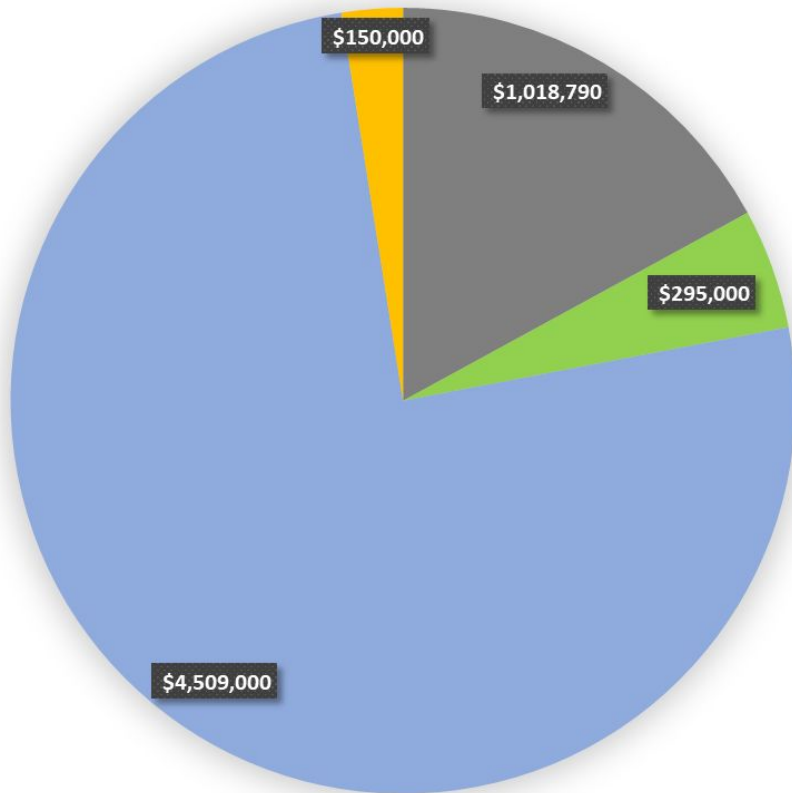
1. Vermont Office of Racial Equity
2. Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs
3. Vermont Branches of the NAACP
4. Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
5. Liberation Ecosystem
6. Vermont Every Town Project
7. National Association of Social Workers (Vermont Chapter)
8. Pride Center of Vermont
9. U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants, Vermont
10. Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
11. Vermont Psychiatric Survivors



LAOB Priority Objectives

*The Land Access
and Opportunity
Board was
Created to:*

- 1. Address historical barriers** that continue to exist within systems of legal oppression and exclusion, economic domination of people and exploitation of land.
- 2. Promote opportunities to access land, home security and welcoming communities** for Vermonters from historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and all those living at the intersections of marginalization.
- 3. Seek out, create, fund, and build alternative models** for land access, finding home, and mobilizing a network of safe, welcoming communities.
- 4. Create the economic and social conditions to make Vermont a haven** where individuals, families, & collectives of historically marginalized & disadvantaged communities can live, grow & thrive.



- General Operating: Staff, Board, and Admin
- Advisory Powers & Community Engagement Program Costs: Assessments, Conferences, Stipends
- Direct Service Program Costs: Housing Coaches, Emergency Preparedness Grants, Downpayment Assistance Grants, Capital for Emerging Developers
- Capacity Building & TA Program Costs: Thriving Communities, etc.

FY26 Budget - \$5.97 Million

Projected Revenues

\$5.6M = 25% Cannabis Excise Tax Community Reinvestment Fund (pending)

\$150,000 EPA Thriving Communities Grantmakers Anchor Org (year 1 - secured)

\$224,000 projected FY25 carryforward

Projected Expenses

\$1M General Operating: Staff, Board, Admin

\$295,000 Advisory Powers & Community Engagement Program Costs:
Assessments, Conferences, Stipends

\$4.5M Direct Service Program Costs: Housing Coaches, Emergency Preparedness Grants, Down-payment Assistance Grants, Capital for Emerging Developers

\$150,000 Capacity Building & TA Program Costs: Thriving Communities, etc.

Reference: CCB Report to the
General Assembly Pursuant to 7
V.S.A § 989

Vermont Cannabis Control Board

Report to the General Assembly
Pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 989

January 15, 2025



Background (cont'd)

There is an enduring legacy of economic insecurity that stem from disproportionate enforcement of drug laws in Vermont and nationally which compound other discriminatory policies and practices (e.g., redlining, exclusionary zoning, chattel slavery, etc.). This legacy is exemplified by:

- [Home ownership among black Vermonters is 27%](#)
- [Only 0.006% of farmland in Vermont is owned by black people](#)
- [The national median wealth of a black family in the U.S. is 1/10th that of the median wealth of a white family](#)
- [16% of Vermont's homeless population is BIPOC, despite making up only 5% of the total VT population](#)
- [BIPOC Vermonters are 3x more likely to experience food insecurity than white neighbors](#)
- [Black Vermonters per capita income is half that of white Vermonters](#)

Recommendation

Recommendation 4: Dedicate a portion of the cannabis excise tax* to the Land Access and Opportunity Board (“LAOB”) for community reinvestment in the following initiatives:**

- 1. Down payment assistance grants to support homeownership and land access for disadvantaged Vermonters.**
 - a. Work in partnership to expand and complement existing downpayment assistance programs, e.g., VHFA First Gen Homebuyer, CHT Homeownership Equity Program, FHL Bank of Boston LIFT UP Program.
 - b. Develop Vermont’s first downpayment assistance grant to support farmland access for disadvantaged communities
- 2. Financing and technical advising support for BIPOC and other emerging developers**
 - a. BIPOC Developer technical assistance program in partnership with VHFA
- 3. Seed and implementation grants for community-led affordable housing and community development projects including land trusts, landbanks, etc.**
- 4. Strengthen community leadership of disadvantaged communities through advisory powers and community engagement.**
 - a. Allocating resources to strengthen and sustain community-led initiatives.
 - b. Supporting underrepresented community members’ participation in public policy processes with stipends, childcare, travel costs, and language access.
 - c. Advising public policies and programming on how to dismantle ongoing barriers that prevent the participation and benefit of disadvantaged communities.

*The LAOB indicated that 25% of the cannabis excise tax annually will allow it to effectively implement its priority initiatives. Based on the cannabis excise tax projections contained in the [JFO Consensus Revenue Forecast \(July 2024\)](#), 25% of the cannabis excise tax would equate to \$5.6M in FY25 and \$6M in FY26

** For more information on the LAOB, please visit: <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/land-access-and-opportunity-board>