



10 April 2025

Dear Chair Perchlik and members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

I am writing on behalf of John Graham Housing & Services in Vergennes and the Addison County Housing Coalition.

As your Committee considers funding priorities for FY26, we urge you to maximize investments in affordable housing. Vermont's housing and homelessness crisis is the result of multiple factors, the core of which is the severe shortage of affordable homes for people with the lowest incomes and an unprecedented rise in housing costs. To address this crisis, we ask the committee **to support \$25 million in funding for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)**, in addition to funding VHCB's full statutory share of the Property Transfer Tax.

As the only provider of emergency shelter for families with children in Addison County at the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes and as Chair of the Addison County Housing Coalition, I am acutely aware that the severe lack of affordable housing remains a major reason why so many Vermonters are unhoused. Currently, Addison County has 135 individuals and 93 households on the Coordinated Entry waitlist for affordable housing.

Additional state investment in affordable housing is essential to resolving Vermont's housing and homelessness crisis and would reduce our costly reliance on the current General Assistance (motel) program.

I urge your Committee to continue the long-term investments needed to fully solve this crisis. Your investments will move Vermont toward a future where all Vermonters have safe and secure housing.

Sincerely,

Susan Whitmore  
Executive Director, John Graham Housing & Services  
Chair, Addison County Housing Coalition

## John Graham Housing & Services

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