

To: Members of the Vermont State Senate and House of Representatives
Date: May 12, 2025
Subject: H.91 funding for municipalities

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We write to you as municipal managers and administrators from across the State to respectfully urge your support for set-asides within H.91 that would provide targeted financial assistance to communities currently hosting the General Assistance (GA) Program.

Municipalities recognize the urgent need to address Vermont's homelessness crisis. However, the responsibility for managing the most visible and immediate impacts of this crisis has fallen disproportionately on local governments—governments that often lack the resources, expertise, and statutory authority to respond effectively.

This strain is being directly felt by our municipal staff and residents. First responders are overwhelmed by increased call volumes. City staff are diverted from core services like park maintenance to clean unsanitary encampments. Meanwhile, residents are reluctant to use our public spaces.

We ask the Legislature to allocate a significant portion of the \$10 million currently appropriated in H.91 as direct assistance to municipalities that are hosting the GA Program. A dedicated set-aside will help alleviate the disproportionate burdens placed on our communities and enable us to continue acting as the front-line responders in a crisis that demands a statewide response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to addressing the homelessness crisis in Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

John Potter, Manager, Town of Brattleboro
Matt Lawless, Manager, Town of Shelburne
Ture Nelson, Acting Administrator, Town of Berlin
Bill Fraser, Manager, City of Montpelier
Nicolas Storellicastro, Manager, City of Barre