

Community Services Block Grant & Homeless Assistance

Office of Economic Opportunity

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

- CSBG is a federally funded block grant that provides funds to support services that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty <https://acf.gov/ocs/programs/community-services-block-grant-csbg>
- Over 1,000 Community Action Agencies provide services and activities across the country. In Vermont, those agencies are:
 - BROCC Community Action
 - Capstone Community Action
 - Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
 - Northeast Kingdom Community Action
 - Southeastern Vermont Community Action
- Over 9 million individuals are served by CSBG-funded programs annually
 - In FFY24 VT's CAAs served 43,900 individuals

Community Initiatives



CSBG Administration & Oversight

- Key Components <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/laws-rules>
 - Annual Work Plans & Annual Reports
 - Community Needs Assessment (every 3 years)
 - Monitoring
 - Annual assessment of compliance with the organizational standards
 - Triennial Monitoring
 - Formal processes are in place if the State was to pursue the termination or reduction of funding or the de-designation of an agency

Vermont's Homeless Response System

Vermont's HUD-Recognized Homeless Continuums of Care (CoC)

VT Balance of State <http://helpingtohousevt.org/>

➤ with 11 local housing coalitions

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance, <http://www.cchavt.org/>

LOCAL PLANNING AND COLLABORATION





Homeless Definition

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	<p>(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); <u>or</u> (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less <u>and</u> who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	<p>(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	<p>(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; <u>and</u> (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	<p>(4) Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; <u>and</u> (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing



At Risk of Homelessness

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS	Category 1	Individuals and Families	<p>An individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has an annual income below <u>30%</u> of median family income for the area; <u>AND</u> (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the "homeless" definition; <u>AND</u> (iii) Meets one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Has moved because of economic reasons 2 or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance; <u>OR</u> (B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; <u>OR</u> (C) Has been notified that their right to occupy <u>their</u> current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance; <u>OR</u> (D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; <u>OR</u> (E) Lives in an SRD or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room; <u>OR</u> (F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care; <u>OR</u> (G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved Con Plan
	Category 2	Unaccompanied Children and Youth	A child or youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition, but qualifies as homeless under another Federal statute
	Category 3	Families with Children and Youth	An unaccompanied youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition, but qualifies as homeless under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) or that child or youth if living with him or her.

Snapshot of Homelessness in Vermont

2024 Point in Time Count

A one-night, unduplicated count of people experiencing literal homelessness

2,322 Households – 3,458 People

Vermont - <https://helpingtohousevt.org/2024-point-in-time-count/>

National - <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

Get Connected to Housing Help – Local Lead Agencies

Washington
County: Capstone

Rutland County:
Homeless
Prevention Center

Addison County:
Charter House

Franklin/GI:
CVOEO

St. Johnsbury
Area: NEKCA

Springfield Area:
Springfield
Supported
Housing

Hartford Area:
Upper Valley
Haven

Southern
Windham:
Groundworks

Bennington
County: BROCC

Lamoille County:
Capstone

Newport Area:
NEKCA

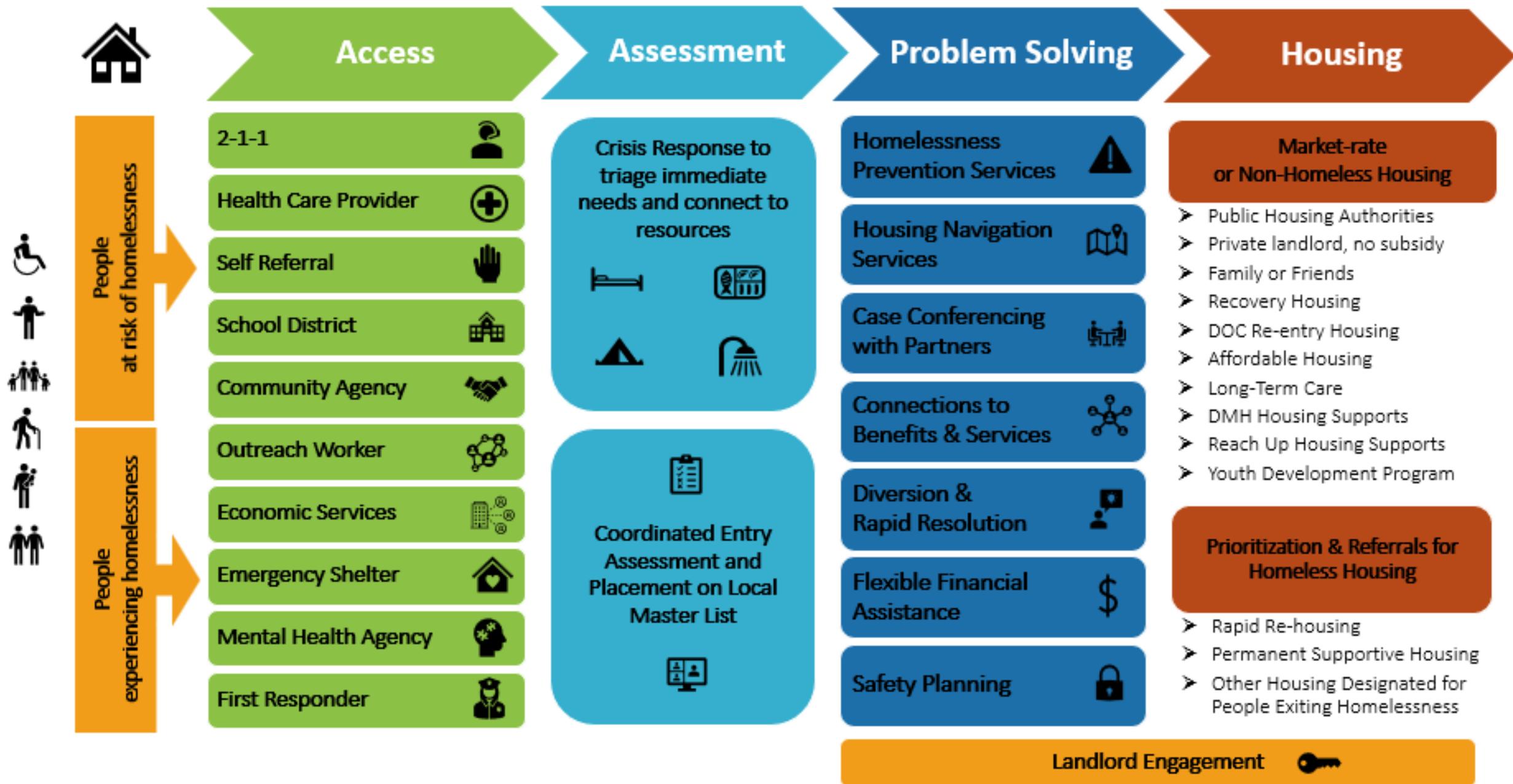
Chittenden:
CVOEO



Coordinated Entry: Connecting People in Housing Crisis to Help

- Reorients housing crisis response system to focus on those being served
- Minimize time and frustration accessing help
- Maximize use of system resources
- Identify service gaps for planning

Coordinated Entry – Connecting People in Housing Crisis to Housing Supports & Resources



Housing Assistance at OEO

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/oEO/resources/awards>

- Housing Opportunity Grant Program (including Federal HUD Emergency Solutions Grant funding)
- HUD Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Grants
- Family Supportive Housing & Permanent Supportive Housing Assistance (Medicaid)

Additional Investments:

- One-time
 - HOME Family Voucher Program with Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
 - Housing Stabilization & Retention Services Program with Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
 - Landlord Relief Program with Vermont State Housing Authority
 - Housing Planning Capacity Grants with the Cities of Barre and Rutland
- ERAP Housing Stability Services – ends June 30, 2025

Housing Opportunity Grant Program

Provides funding to:

- Operate emergency shelter
- Operate transitional housing (where appropriate)
- Rapidly re-house individuals and families
- Prevent those experiencing a housing crisis from becoming homeless

Housing Opportunity Grant Program (Continued)

Provides funding to:

- Implement coordinated entry to streamline client access to resources
- Provide flexible financial assistance
- Administer the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Awards Summary: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/resources/awards>

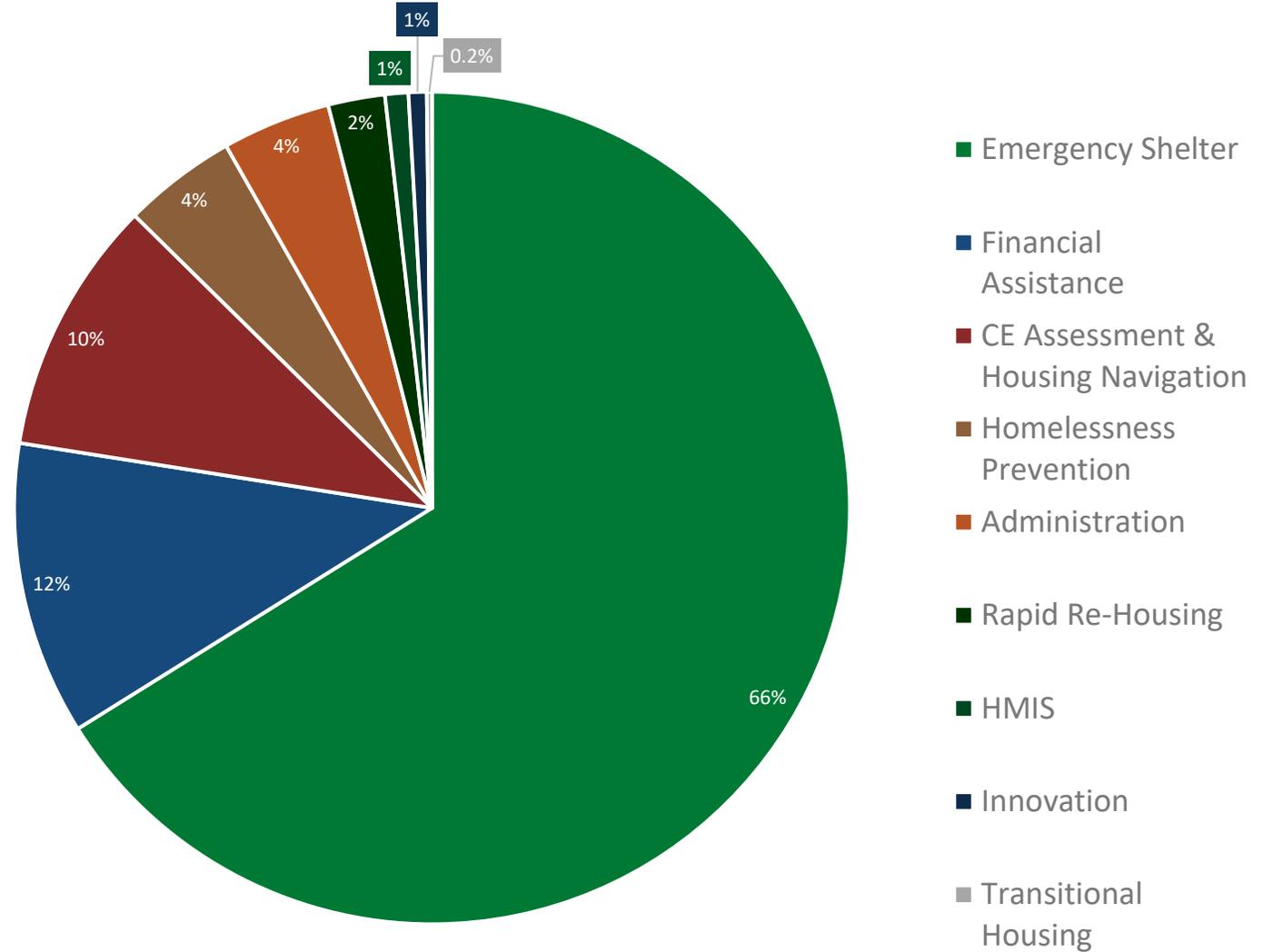
Housing Opportunity Grant Program SFY25 Awards

Approximately \$38.9 million
awarded to 35 non-profit
organizations

Awards Summary: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/resources/awards>

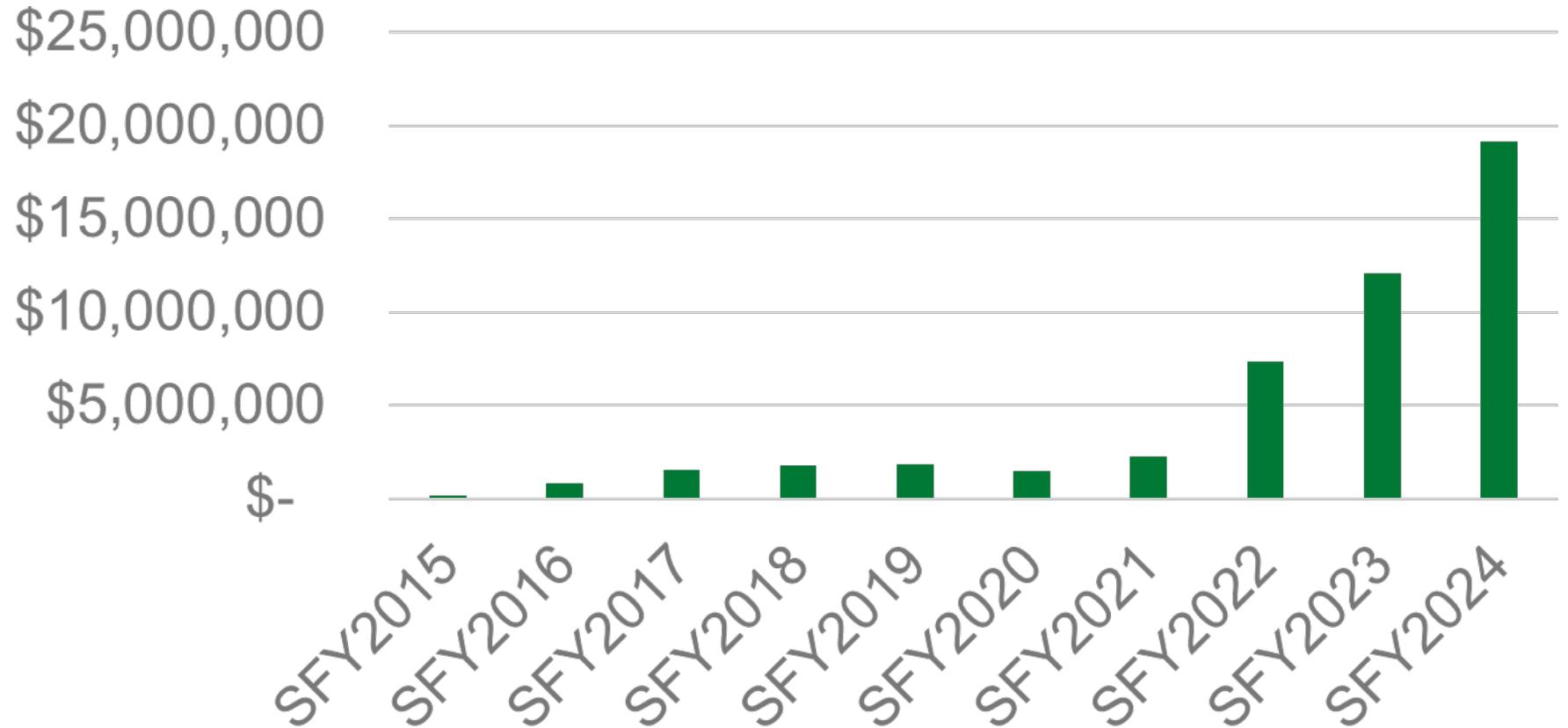
Housing Opportunity Grant Program SFY25 Awards

SFY25 HOP Funding by Activity



Expense Growth

Housing Opportunity Program Growth Over Time



Administration

Application & Funding Process:

- Early April: OEO releases Notice of Funding Opportunity
- May: Applications due mid-May, OEO reviews and negotiates budgets and scopes of work
- June: Award notifications made as close to June 1st as possible
- July: Program start date of July 1st

Operations & Oversight

Housing Opportunity Grant Program Standards & Guidance

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/programs/hop/guidance>

Ongoing Monitoring

- Annual Habitability Inspection
- Programmatic Monitoring
- Fiscal Monitoring

Thank you!

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