

The House passed budget includes the Governor's Recommend of **\$4.45M of one-time for the Blueprint and SASH programs.** This amount retains funding for these essential and proven programs for the gap year between the end of the All-Payer Model and the AHEAD model starting in 2027.

The House passed budget includes a base funding increase of **\$2.74M of General Fund to make much needed progress to raise Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) rates and home-based CFC rates** to align more closely with the 2023 DVHA rate study. This amount gets us to about 2/3 of what the rate study recommends.

The House passed budget includes a **2% rate increase for community-based providers.** This is an essential increase so that providers like Cathedral Square can at least partially keep up with inflationary increases. We understand that Adult Day program and skilled nursing in the home may have been inadvertently left out of this increase- we support an addition to ensure all parts of the continuum of community-based long-term care is included in the modest increase.

The House passed budget includes the Governor's recommended statutorily required funding from the Property Transfer Tax revenue for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board which is essential for the creation and preservation of permanently affordable housing. **We need more funds than this** to keep up the momentum of the past few years in the development of essential affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Vermonters. The House passed budget includes an additional \$5M of one-time funds to VHCBC for housing only. **Please support the \$5 M and an additional \$8.5 M** in one-time funds that we understand is available from the Treasurer's Office.

While we had plenty of support on the House side for funding to continue the SASH for All pilot program operating in Brattleboro and surrounding small towns it did not end up in the final House passed budget. A one-time request of **\$400,000 would continue the SASH for All existing pilot** and an **additional \$2M would expand the pilot to all regions of the state.** We recognize this would be a tough year to add requests into the Senate budget that aren't already included in the House passed version but just in case there is a chance!

Kim Fitzgerald

Chief Executive Officer

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