



The Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition (VAHC) is a dynamic statewide partnership of more than 100 organizations, businesses, and individuals dedicated to uniting people in a movement for safe, accessible, quality, and perpetually affordable housing. We accomplish this through advocacy, education, and outreach.

## 2023 Legislative Priorities

Vermont's shortage of safe, decent, and affordable housing is a continuing crisis. The historic pandemic response investments made an immediate difference, but the work is far from complete. The retreat of special funding, a lack of supply, inflation pressures, systemic inequities, inadequate supportive services and community infrastructure, and NIMBY-empowering local regulations are troubling.

Any legislation addressing the housing crisis in Vermont must be viewed through a **diversity, equity, and inclusion** lens. The disparity of homeownership between white and BIPOC Vermonters is a reminder of the systemic inequities that limit housing opportunity and choice. We must ensure an equitable future for all Vermonters, and especially our most marginalized neighbors.

### VAHC urges lawmakers to focus progress in these key areas:

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

VAHC supports continued investment of state and federal funding that will allow for the development of new housing. These one-time investments, coupled with full funding for the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) are a vital funding source for affordable housing development in Vermont. State funding helps leverage federal and private funding and provides important flexibility.

The General Assembly intentionally established in statute that the primary funding for VHCB would come from the Property Transfer Tax (PTT). VAHC strongly supports **full statutory funding for VHCB combined with an additional \$175 million in one-time investments** to address Vermont's affordable housing shortage.

#### EMERGENCY HOUSING & RENTAL ASSISTANCE

As Federal funding of the Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Programs ends, a housing solution is still necessary for vulnerable Vermonters. It is vital that practitioners and stakeholders, including those with lived experience, be a part of crafting this solution. VAHC supports the **expansion of rental subsidy programs** as a bridge to permanent housing for renters, continued adequate levels of **funding for the GA Emergency Housing Program**, a review of the **eligibility rules** to ensure that the needs of Vermonters who are without housing are met, funding for **innovative housing options** across the spectrum such as *non-congregate emergency shelters, accessory dwelling units, single room occupancy apartments, master leasing, harm reduction housing, and safe parking and camping and resources to engage landlords.*

#### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Without supportive services housing remains tenuous for many, especially older people, people with disabilities, and people who have experienced homelessness, severe mental health issues, or Substance Use Disorder. VAHC supports increased and continued funding for **proven supportive and cost saving programs** such as resident services coordinators, SASH®, and new long-term funding of the current **SASH for All** pilot, robust funding to implement the recently approved **Permanent Supportive Housing Medicaid pilot** and increased funding to sustain and expand **peer support services** to fill gaps in service delivery and continued expansion of **Family Supportive Housing** and supportive housing targeted to individuals is recommended. **Further increases to the budget for Designated Agencies, Social Service agencies, and Home and Community-based Care providers is vital.**

*VAHC also supports: Tenant Rights, Additional Housing Development Resources, Regulatory Reforms, and Investments in Manufactured Home Communities*

For more details on VAHC's Legislative Priorities, visit [www.vtaffordablehousing.org](http://www.vtaffordablehousing.org)

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