

**APPENDIX 4:**  
**HOUSING INVENTORY REPORT**

# INVENTORY OF HOUSING & SERVICES PROGRAMS TO ASSIST HOMELESS & AT-RISK YOUTH IN VERMONT

Prepared by:  
The Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., May 2017

Prepared for:  
The Vermont Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee

Updated by:  
Vermont's YHDP Leadership Team, **January 2019**

## Introduction

This inventory was completed by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC) in May 2017 for the Vermont Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee which is comprised of Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) and Chittenden Homeless Alliance (CHA) members, the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) and other stakeholders, and chaired by the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Providers (VCRHYP) and the Vermont Agency for Human Services' Department of Children and Families (AHS/DCF). **Vermont's YHDP Leadership Team updated the inventory in January 2019.**

The inventory primarily focuses on homeless-specific, affordable housing, and other service system resources that are targeted for youth, or for which transition age youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness may be eligible. Included are federal as well as applicable state programs as some programs blend federal and state funds. The inclusion of important state-specific programs and resources also ensures that the full range of housing and services that should be available to assist youth are represented.

The programs and resources included in the inventory range from prevention and outreach/drop-in services, to emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid-rehousing and permanent supportive housing, as well as family support and engagement, life skills training, case management, health and behavioral health services, and education, training, and workforce/employment services. Resources to meet the needs of youth who are under 18, pregnant and parenting, Vermont Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Plan

LGBTQ, have experienced trafficking or domestic/sexual violence, are aging out of foster care and/or have been involved in the justice system are included as information was available.

This inventory can help begin to identify gaps in housing and services as well as opportunities for the best response to the needs of youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the state. As the Committee furthers its work, it may want to seek more specifics regarding eligibility for particular programs and resources included in the inventory as it pertains to youth. The inventory may be useful to inform mapping of the access and referral pathways to available programs and resources for youth. The Committee may also want to explore potential access and retention barriers for youth related to these programs and resources.

## Homeless-Specific Resources Available to Youth

### Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

**Administering Agency:**

Vermont Department of Mental Health

**Funding:**

Federal - HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) PATH Program

**Providers:**

- Groundworks Drop-in Center (Brattleboro)
- Homeless Prevention Center (Rutland)
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport)
- Community Health Center of Burlington (Burlington)
- Addison County Community Action Group (Middlebury)
- Good Samaritan Haven (Barre)

**Services/Eligibility:**

Transition age youth ages 18-24 may be eligible for PATH program services if they also have a serious mental illness and are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Services include those that may not be available through mainstream mental health programs, including:

- Outreach
- Screening and diagnostic services
- Habilitation and rehabilitation
- Community mental health
- Substance use treatment
- Referrals for primary healthcare, job training, education services, and housing
- Specifically allowable housing services (as specified in Section 522(b)(10) of the Public Health Service Act)

### Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Program

**Administering Agency:**

Community Health Centers of Burlington

**Funding:**

Federal – HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Program

**Provider:**

Pearl Street Youth Health Center (Burlington); Safe Harbor Health Center (Burlington)

**Services/Eligibility:**

Pearl Street offers walk-in and scheduled appointments for youth and young adults ages 13 - 25, and special services for at-risk youth, homeless teens, and young adults. Services include primary health and dental care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, outreach, referral, case management, family planning, and linkages to shelter and youth serving agencies.

Young adults may also receive services through Safe Harbor which offers primary and preventive health care, supportive housing programs, dental care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, outreach, and case management services.

## General Assistance (GA) Emergency Housing Program

**Administering Agency:**

DCF Economic Services Division (ESD)

**Funding:**

State - General Funds

**Providers:**

Various throughout the state

**Housing/Services Description:**

Provides homeless people with temporary housing utilizing a hotel or motel with which the referring agency has a prior agreement. Also included are programs that provide vouchers for use in one or more of the community's homeless shelters.

**Eligibility/Referral:**

Must meet program eligibility criteria and have a household member considered to be part of a “vulnerable population” (i.e., 65 years of age or older; in receipt of SSI/DI; a child six years of age or younger; or in the third trimester of pregnancy) -OR- receive enough points via an established rating system which requires fitting into more than one vulnerable population category including having an open case in the DCF Family Services Division, SSI/DI applicants with documented disability, children between the ages of 7 and 17, recent hospital discharges with ongoing medical needs related to the hospitalization, over 18 years of age discharged from DCF custody in the past 3 years, Reach Up recipient, and/or on probation or parole with DOC after 12 consecutive months of incarceration and release within the past 6 months.

Intake and eligibility for GA emergency housing is determined in each of the DCF Economic Services Division’s (ESD) 12 district offices. Households in need of emergency housing apply at the local ESD office where they are seen for an intake interview and eligibility determination the same day. Vermont 2-1-1 handles after-hour and weekend calls.

**Other Relevant Information:**

In August 2015, DCF issued an RFP seeking community-based alternatives to the GA motel voucher program with the goal of decreasing reliance on motels while meeting emergency shelter needs. In FY18, DCF awarded grants to 14 organizations to provide or increase the availability of seasonal warming shelters, emergency shelters, short-term transitional housing and services for homeless families with children, and emergency housing and services for victims fleeing violence.\*

*\*Some of these community investments were funded through HOP.*

## Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP)

### Administering Agency:

Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

### Funding:

Federal - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

State - General Funds

### Providers:

Approximately 45 nonprofit emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing and prevention program providers across the state (see [FY18HOP awards](#) which includes all HOP grantees.)

### Housing/Services Description:

- 1) Emergency (year round, seasonal, day and domestic violence) shelter operations and/or essential services
- 2) Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance
  - Relocation and stabilization services:
    - Housing search and placement, including work with nonprofit and private landlords
    - Housing stability case management, including follow-up and connection with post-lease supportive services
    - Landlord-Tenant mediation
    - Follow-up or supportive services to help maintain housing
    - Money management/credit repair
    - Tenant education
  - Financial assistance: security deposits, utility deposits/payments, last month's rent, moving costs
  - Rental assistance: rent arrears (up to 3 months), short-term rent assistance (up to 3 months), medium-term rent assistance (up to 24 months)
- 3) Transitional housing

### Basic Eligibility:

Emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and transitional housing serve those who meet the AHS and HUD definition of homelessness. Prevention assistance is available to those who meet the AHS and HUD definition of "at risk of homelessness" as well as income guidelines.

### Youth-Specific Capacity:

While youth ages 18-24 may qualify for HOP-funded housing and services not targeted for youth but for homeless and at-risk individuals and families more generally, youth-specific capacity exists in terms of emergency shelter and transitional housing beds (see Table 1 on page 7); HOP also funds some support services in these settings.

### Other Relevant Information:

The HOP program's [FY17 Annual Report](#) indicates that approximately 17% of all adults served by HOP-funded shelters, homelessness prevention, or rapid re-housing programs were between the age of 18 and 24.

## Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

### Administering Agency:

Washington County Youth Service Bureau, on behalf of the [Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs \(VCRHYP\)](#)

### Funding:

Federal - Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

### Providers: VCRHYP member agencies:

- Addison County Parent Child Center (Middlebury)
- Lamoille Family Center (Morrisville)
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport)
- Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (St. Johnsbury)
- Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (St. Albans)
- Spectrum Youth & Family Services (Burlington)
- United Counseling Service of Bennington County (Bennington)
- Washington County Youth Service Bureau (Montpelier)
- Windsor County Youth Services (Ludlow)
- Youth Services, Inc. (Brattleboro)

### Housing/Services Description:\*

- 1) **Basic Center Program (BCP)** - helps create and strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth under 18 years old. BCP tries to reunite youth with their families or locate appropriate alternative placements, and may provide up to 21 days of shelter, food, clothing and medical care, individual, group and family counseling, crisis intervention, recreation programs, and aftercare services after youth leave shelter.

Vermont operates the following types of BCP grants:

- **BCP – Prevention:** Goal is to keep the family together and prevent the youth from entering DCF custody; services include family counseling and case management.
- **BCP – Shelter:** Goal is to help reunify youth with their family and prevent them from entering DCF custody; services include short-term shelter (host homes or residential setting), case management, and family counseling.

- 2) **Transitional Living Program (TLP)** - provides long-term residential services to older homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 22. Living accommodations may include host-family homes, group homes or maternity group homes, and supervised apartments owned by the program or rented in the community. TLPs offer or refer for the following services: safe, stable living accommodations; basic life skills building, including consumer education, budgeting, housekeeping, food preparation and parenting skills; educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, post-secondary training and vocational education; job attainment services, such as career counseling and job placement; mental health care, including individual and group counseling; and physical health care.

Vermont's TLP grant provides case management and access to transitional apartments (up to 18 months) (see Table 1 on page 7).

**Eligibility:** RHY is primarily targeted to serving homeless and runaway “non-systems” youth (e.g., youth not eligible or otherwise being served by systems such as DCF, DMH, DAIL, juvenile justice, etc.)

- BCP - Prevention: 12-17 year olds at risk of running away or being pushed out of the home; parental/guardian permission required
- BCP - Shelter: 12-17 year olds who have runaway or been pushed out of their home; parental/guardian permission required
- TLP: 16-21 year olds who are at risk of homelessness or are already homeless; parental/guardian permission required if youth is under age 18 and not emancipated. At-risk of homelessness includes youth living independently whose housing is jeopardized for any reason, youth living with family but likely to become homeless, and couch-surfing youth.

### Other Relevant Information:

Vermont's network of RHY providers offer an array of safety net programs for youth using other funding sources as well. Examples of services provided include outreach, 24-hour crisis intervention, drop-in centers, housing and services for pregnant/parenting youth, educational services, substance use treatment, and transitional housing for youth involved with the justice system.

*\*Vermont does not currently have a Street Outreach Program (SOP) grant which supports work with homeless, runaway and street youth.*

## Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

### Administering Agency:

Vermont has 2 HUD-recognized Continuums of Care (CoCs) that participate in the annual CoC funding competition:

- Vermont Balance of State (BoS) CoC which includes 11 of the 12 regional CoCs across the state (except Chittenden County); Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) is the HUD-required Collaborative Applicant for the BoS CoC
- Burlington/Chittenden CoC; City of Burlington/CEDO is the Collaborative Applicant

### Funding:

Federal - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

### Providers:

Each of the 12 regional CoCs - Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin/Grand Isle, Lamoille, Northeast Kingdom (Caledonia/Essex Counties), Orange/Windsor North, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham South, and Windsor South/Windham North - has its own network of providers.

### Housing/Services Description:

- 1) **Transitional Housing (TH)** - up to 24 months with services and rent subsidy in specific units
- 2) **Rapid Re-housing (RRH)** - rapid transition from homelessness (i.e. emergency shelter or the street) into scattered-site permanent housing with medium-term (up to 24 months) of rental assistance and voluntary services using a low barrier/housing first approach
- 3) **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** - comprehensive support services and long-term rental assistance (12+months) in permanent housing
- 4) **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing (TH-RRH)** – combination of services offered by a TH and a RRH project

Continuum of Care	Administrator	TH	RRH	PSH	TH-RRH
Balance of State	Vermont State Housing Authority	-	78	148	-
	Brattleboro Housing Authority	-	-	23	-
	Pathways Vermont	-	8	-	-
Chittenden	Steps to End Domestic Violence	-	22	-	-
	Burlington Housing Authority	-	-	73	-

### Eligibility:

CoC program participants must meet the HUD definition of homelessness. Additional program component requirements:

- **RRH** – May serve families, youth and individuals; head of household must be literally homeless (i.e. streets or shelter). Maximum household income 50% AMI. Program is low-barrier meaning households are not screened out for having little or no income, current substance use, DV or criminal history, etc. Access is through local CoC Coordinated Entry systems with priority given to the highest need, most vulnerable households. Special needs populations include: Domestic/Sexual violence, LGBTQ youth, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, Veterans ineligible or averse to VA services, substance use disorder.
- **PSH** - individuals (and their families if applicable) with a disabling condition who are literally Homeless (i.e. in emergency shelter or places not meant for human habitation), with a priority to first serve chronically homeless individuals

### Youth-Specific Capacity:

The BoS CoC Program has RRH capacity dedicated to serving homeless youth (see Table 1 on page 7).

### Other Relevant Information:

Youth ages 18-24 may also qualify for CoC-funded housing and services not specifically targeted for youth, such as PSH Shelter + Care rental assistance, dependent upon turnover/availability and prioritization, and RRH assistance subject to new resources coming on line and the referral/prioritization processes in place.

**Table 1: Homeless Youth-Specific Bed Capacity**

	Program/ Fund Source	Grantee/Provider	# Beds	Description
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	HOP	Spectrum Youth & Family Services (Burlington)	8	Year-round facility-based shelter <i>*also supported with RHY BCP funds</i>
	RHY BCP	Addison County Parent Child Center (Middlebury)	1	Site-based
		Lamoille Family Center (Morrisville)	2	Host homes
		Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport)	1	Host home
		Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (St. Johnsbury)	1	Host home
		Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (St. Albans)	3	Host homes
		United Counseling Services (Bennington)	1	Host home
		Washington County Youth Service Bureau (Montpelier)	8	Host homes
		Windsor County Youth Services (Ludlow)	2	Year-round facility-based shelter <i>*also supported with HOP funds</i>
		Youth Services, Inc. (Brattleboro)	2	Host homes
		Private	Spectrum Youth & Family Services (Burlington)	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29 year-round, 10 seasonal</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	HOP	Spectrum Youth & Family Services (Burlington)	8	Site-based SROs for youth formerly in foster care
	RHY TLP	Addison County Parent Child Center (Middlebury)	10	Site-based SROs
		Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport)	3	Scattered site units
		Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (St. Johnsbury)	9	Scattered site units <i>*also supported with HOP funds</i>
		Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (St. Albans)	1	Scattered site unit
		United Counseling Service of Bennington County (Bennington)	1	Scattered site unit
		Windsor County Youth Services (Ludlow)	4	Site-based units <i>*also supported with HOP funds</i>
		Washington County Youth Service Bureau (Montpelier)	3	Scattered site units
		Youth Services, Inc. (Brattleboro)	7	Site-based units <i>*also supported with HOP funds</i>
	Other	Rutland County Parent Child Center (Rutland)	5	Site-based units for parenting youth & their children
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51 year-round</b>	
<b>Rapid Re-housing</b>	<b>CoC (BoS)</b>	<b>VSHA administers in 6 counties through sponsor agencies</b>	9+	9 is an estimate of the total dedicated to serve youth
<b>TOTAL Youth-Specific Beds</b>			<b>99+</b>	<b>89+ year-round, 10 seasonal</b>



## Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

### Administering Agency:

University of Vermont

### Funding:

Federal – U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs

### Housing/Services Description:

SSVF provides supportive services to participants to help them obtain or retain stable housing. SSVF case managers assist the household to find or retain housing by working closely with them on housing placement, financial counseling, budgeting, employment, VA or state benefits, and linkage to services. In certain cases, case management may be augmented by temporary financial assistance with rent, rental deposits, utility deposits, and other eligible expenses related to secure housing.

### Eligibility:

Eligible families must have a head of household or spouse who is a U.S. active duty military veteran with any discharge type other than dishonorable, and very-low family income (less than 50% of the Area Median Income, or AMI). The SSVF program targets the poorest families (less than 30% AMI) and veterans of the recent Iraq and Afghanistan deployments as priority cases. Typically, a family must be literally homeless or be facing eviction within 14 days to qualify.

## Family Supportive Housing (FSH) Program

### Administering Agency:

DCF Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

### Funding:

State - General Funds, Medicaid

### Providers:

- Winston Prouty Center (WPC) - Brattleboro
- Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) - Rutland
- The Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) and Howard Center partnership - Burlington
- The Upper Valley Haven (The Haven) - Hartford
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) - St. Johnsbury
- Sunrise Family Resource Center - Bennington
- Family Center of Washington County - Montpelier

### Housing/Services Description:

FSH helps families who are homeless move into affordable housing and provides them with up to 24 months of home-based case management and service coordination aimed at helping them keep their housing. Permanent affordable housing is secured through MOUs with housing providers. Services are focused on maintaining stable tenancy and include intensive home-based case management and service coordination (e.g., twice per week) with small caseloads (i.e., 12-15 households).

### Eligibility:

- Families with children under 18 years old who are homeless, staying in local emergency shelter, domestic violence shelters, on the street (or another place not meant for human habitation), or in a state-funded motel **AND**
- The parent(s) must agree to engage with services offered, set goals, and actively work towards them.

FSH prioritizes eligible families if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Multiple shelter or multiple state-funded motel stays
- An active case with Department for Children and Families, Division of Family Services or
- Family has a child under the age of six.

FSH programs have flexibility to identify up to 25% of eligible families outside the definition of homeless as long as the family income is at or below 30% of the area median income; the family is at-risk to be homeless within two weeks or 14 days; the family is likely to retain affordable or subsidized housing through FSH; the family has had at least one episode of homelessness in the past 24 months, and all local partners agree to these conditions in an MOU.

## Vermont Rental Subsidy Program

**Administering Agency:**

DCF in partnership with Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA)

**Funding:**

State - General Funds

**Housing/Services Description:**

Provides temporary rental assistance up to 12 months. Tenants receive ongoing support from a designated Housing Support Worker who serves as the landlord's point of contact should any issues arise that could jeopardize tenancy. Tenants are expected to actively work to increase their income or secure other forms of long-term rental subsidy by the end of the 12 month period of assistance. The program also establishes a local preference whereby eligible participants who remain in good standing with the program and their landlord may receive a preference for a federal Housing Choice Voucher.

**Eligibility/Referral:**

Transition age youth ages 18-24 who are at risk of homelessness may be eligible. Potential participants are referred to DCF by local Housing Review Teams consisting of housing, shelter, and service providers as well as AHS staff who pre-screen applicants. DCF has established eligibility criteria and a points system to rank all applicants on a statewide list that it maintains.

## Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY)

**Administering Agency:**

Vermont Agency of Education

**Funding:**

Federal – U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY) Program

**[Local Homeless Education Liaisons Listing](#)****Housing/Services Description:**

This program ensures that homeless students have equal access to the same free, appropriate, public education (including public preschool) provided to other Vermont children, with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and student performance standards. Every school district is required to designate an appropriate staff person as a local Homeless Education Liaison. Liaisons must ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies, and that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and receive access to educational services for which they are eligible, as well as referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.

**Eligibility:** In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

## Affordable Housing Resources for Which Youth May Be Eligible

### Administering Agency:

Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) administers statewide. There are also 8 local public housing authorities (pg. 11)

### Funding:

Federal - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program & Public Housing

### Description:

**Tenant-Based Vouchers:** Often referred to as Section 8, HCVs assist low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities to obtain decent, safe, and affordable housing in the community. HCVs are tenant-based rent subsidies provided to eligible applicants to use in private market rental housing of their choice that meets the HCV program requirements. Households pay a portion of monthly housing costs that is based on the income of the household (usually 30-40% of monthly adjusted income).

**Special Purpose Vouchers:** Vouchers appropriated by Congress exclusively for people with disabilities, including Rental Assistance for Nonelderly Persons with Disabilities (“NED”) and 5-Year Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities vouchers.

**Family Unification Program (FUP):** FUP vouchers for available to eligible families and youth in partnership with DCF. In addition to providing HCVs, supportive services must be provided to FUP youth by DCF for the first 18 months that the youth participates in the program. The program does not require DCF to provide supportive services for families, but they may be made available to families as well. There is no time limitation on FUP family vouchers. FUP vouchers used by youth are limited, by statute, to 36 months of housing assistance; VSHA, one FUP administrator, has an 18 month limit on FUP vouchers after which youth may receive a preference on the HCV waiting list for a permanent voucher.

**HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH):** VASH is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move veterans out of homelessness and into permanent supportive housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its HCV Program, and the VA offers clinical and supportive services through its health care system.

**Project-Based Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs:** Project-based properties have a set number of units with a subsidy attached to them, rather than to the individual. Currently, VSHA funds several project-based properties.

**Public Housing:** Affordable housing units for low-income households that are owned and operated by the PHA.

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA):** Housing vouchers and supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

### Eligibility/Referral:

**HCV:** Must meet HCV program eligibility requirements, including income eligibility. Applicants are selected from the PHA’s HCV waiting list. VSHA has preferences for homeless families with case management support, and a transitional housing preference for families/individuals participating in a variety of programs administered by VSHA for households experiencing homelessness, including FUP for Youth in Transition. Montpelier, Rutland, and Burlington Housing Authorities also have preferences for persons experiencing homelessness.

**Special Purpose:** Only income eligible families whose head of household, spouse or co-head is non-elderly (under age 62) and disabled may receive a voucher. Families with only a minor child with a disability are not eligible. Applicants are selected from the PHAs HCV waiting list.

**FUP:** DCF determines if the family or youth meets FUP eligibility requirements, and refers to VSHA for HCV program eligibility determination and placement on the waiting list. A youth may qualify for a FUP voucher if they are at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years old, currently working with the DCF Youth Development Program, are referred by their case manager, and meet standard definitions of homeless or at risk of homelessness. Youth qualify for a preference on VSHA’ HCV wait list when their FUP voucher ends, allowing them to potentially get a permanent voucher. Eligible families include those whose lack of adequate housing is the primary factor in either the imminent placement of the family’s child or children in out-of-home care, or the delay of discharge of a child or children to the family from out-of-home care.

**Project-Based Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation:** Must meet HCV program eligibility requirements; waiting lists are managed by property. Owners/managers determine suitability and VSHA determines eligibility for the program; moderate rehabilitation properties use the same homeless preference as the HCV program.

**Public Housing:** Must meet federal public housing eligibility requirements including income eligibility and citizen/eligible immigrant status requirements. Each PHA has its own waiting list; Rutland and Montpelier HAs have preferences for homeless individuals and/or families.

## Public Housing Agency (PHA) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

### PHA-Specific Resources & Utilization Rates

Current utilization rates show that very few HCVs or public housing units are going toward households without minor children and are not elderly or disabled.

PHA	HCVs	HCV Utilization Rates		NED	Mainstream 5-Year	FUP	VASH	HOPWA	Multi-Family Project-Based
		<i>Non-elderly, no children, non-disabled</i>	<i>Non-elderly, no children, disabled</i>						
Burlington HA	2,179	4%	38%	527	100	100	unknown	unknown	-
Brattleboro HA	212	9%	40%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutland HA	214	5%	33%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Springfield HA	61	4%	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barre HA	185	11%	36%	50	-	-	-	-	-
Winooski HA	335	10%	17%	70	-	-	-	-	-
Montpelier HA	122	4%	53%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bennington HA	207	3%	39%	-	-	-	--	-	-
VT State HA	3939	6%	31%	275	265	418	213	55 (30 federal, 25 state)	3076

PHA	Public Housing Units	Public Housing Utilization Rates	
		<i>Non-elderly, no children, non-disabled</i>	<i>Non-elderly, no children, disabled</i>
Burlington HA	134*	-	-
Brattleboro HA	284	9	28
Rutland HA	218	5	30
Springfield HA	-	-	-
Barre HA	366	2	31
Winooski HA	238	9	20
Montpelier HA	60	0	45
Bennington HA	195	4	21
VT State HA	-	-	-

#### Other Relevant Info:

Some local PHAs may have contracts with affordable housing developments that provide units specifically for homeless households including youth/families. For example, the Burlington Housing Authority contracts for project-based units for homeless individuals and for youth/families participating in different programs in the area, including one Parent Child Center (Lund Family Center).

\*From 2011 PHA Administrative Plan.

## HOME Investment Partnerships & Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs

### Administering Agencies:

HOME and CDBG are administered by states and localities or “participating jurisdictions” through community development departments that must have a HUD-approved Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) outlining plans for the use of these resources.

In Vermont, the state’s allocation of these funds are administered by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD); one participating jurisdiction (Burlington) also receives HOME and CDBG funds which are administered by the city’s Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO)

### Funding:

Federal - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

### Description:

**HOME** is a formula grant of federal housing funds that can be used to:

- Build, buy, and renovate rental housing;
- Finance homeownership opportunities;
- Repair homes, including making buildings physically accessible; or
- Provide rental subsidies to eligible households.

All housing developed with HOME funds must serve low- and very low-income individuals and families. HOME funds cannot be used to subsidize the operating costs of rental housing; people with extremely low- incomes (i.e., below 30% of the AMI) typically require ongoing subsidy funding through programs like HCV assistance or a state funded subsidy for affordability.

**CDBG** funds can be used to address critical and unmet community needs including those for housing rehabilitation, public facilities, infrastructure, economic development, public services and more. Each grantee receiving CDBG funds determines what activities it will fund as long as each activity is eligible according to HUD regulations and meets one of the following national objectives:

- Benefits persons of low- and moderate-income;
- Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- Meets an urgent housing/community development need that the grantee is unable to finance on its own or with other funding sources.

States and communities may use up to 15% of their CDBG allocation to support essential public services such as employment services (e.g., job training), child care, health services, substance use services, services for homeless persons, and making accessibility modifications to housing for people with disabilities.

### Vermont’s 2018 Allocations:

State/Locality	HOME	CDBG
Burlington	\$539,670	\$786,789
Vermont (State)	\$3,008,138	\$6,892,861

## Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program

**Administering Agency:**

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

**Funding:**

Federal - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Description:**

The Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program is a new affordable housing production program intended to complement existing federal, state and local efforts to increase the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing, primarily for extremely low-income households. HTF dollars may be used by the State Designated Agency for the production or preservation of housing that is affordable to extremely low-income households (i.e. at or below 30% AMI) through the acquisition, new construction, reconstruction, and/or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing with suitable amenities. In addition, the State Designated Agency may choose to use HTF resources for ongoing eligible operating costs or to fund an operating reserve in order to create and sustain rental housing units for households at or below 30% of AMI.

Vermont's FY2017 HTF allocation was \$3,000,000 and it is expected to be the same for FY2018. The state intends to use HTF resources exclusively for rental housing to meet the priority housing needs as identified by the State's Consolidated Plan. The state's [2018 HTF Allocation Plan](#) outlines plans to award these funds statewide to eligible recipients (i.e. nonprofit and for-profit developers, public housing agencies, and municipalities) on a competitive basis for locally-driven projects that address the criteria outlined in the allocation plan, as well as the priority housing needs identified in the State's Consolidated Plan.

Some of the criteria include the extent to which projects have federal, state, or local project-based rental assistance so that rents are affordable to extremely low-income families, provide service enriched housing serving persons with disabilities, and/or serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition, owners of housing funded with HTF dollars may (but are not required to) limit occupancy or provide preference to:

- Homeless families or individuals
- People with disabilities (including people with mental illness)
- Victims of domestic violence
- Frail elders
- Veterans

## Other Service System Resources Available for Youth

### Vermont 2-1-1

**Description:**

Operated by United Ways of VT, [Vermont 2-1-1](#). Provides information and referrals to important community resources, such as emergency food and shelter, disability services, counseling, senior services, health care, child care, drug and alcohol programs, legal assistance, transportation, educational and volunteer opportunities, and more.

### Parent-Child Centers

**Administering Agency:**

DCF

**Providers:**

Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of 15 community-based nonprofit organizations, serving all of Vermont:

- Addison County Parent Child Center (Middlebury)
- Early Education Services/Windham County (Brattleboro)
- Family Center of Northwestern VT (St. Albans)
- Family Center of Washington County (Montpelier)
- The Family Place (Norwich)
- Lamoille Family Center (Morrisville)
- Lund (Burlington)
- Milton Family Community Center (Milton)
- VNA/Family & Children's Services (Colchester)
- NEKCA/ Parent Child Center North (Newport)
- NEKCA/ Parent Child Center South (St. Johnsbury)
- Orange County Parent Child Center (Tunbridge)
- Rutland County Parent Child Center (Rutland)
- Springfield Area Parent Child Center (North Springfield)
- Sunrise Family Resource Center (Bennington)

**Description:**

PCCs provide support and education to families with young children to make sure children get off to a healthy start. Services include early childhood services, home visits to families with young children, playgroups, parent education, parent support, and information and referral.

### Teen/Drop-In Centers

**Description:**

Teen Centers provide outreach, drop-in and prevention services and may serve as an important access point into the system for youth. Several are connected to agencies offering RHY programming and may use some BCP funds. These include:

- Basement Teen Center (Montpelier), ages 13-18, run by Washington County Youth Service Bureau
- Spectrum's Drop-In Center (Burlington), ages 14-24, run by Spectrum Youth & Family Services
- "Tuesday Night Live" Drop-In Program (Brattleboro), ages unknown, run by Youth Services, Inc. at Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro

Others not connected to agencies offering RHY programming include:

- The Bristol Hub Teen Center & Skatepark (Bristol), up to age 19
- Evening Drop-In at King Street Center (Burlington), ages 14-18
- Addison Central Teens (Middlebury), ages unknown
- LISTEN's Junction Youth Center (White River Junction), ages unknown
- Sara Holbrook Teen Center (Burlington), middle & high school students
- Essex Teen Center (Essex Junction), middle school students at Albert D. Lawton and Essex Middle School
- Outright Vermont's Youth Drop-In Space (Burlington), for queer, questioning, and allied youth ages 13-22



## Community Action Agencies

### Description:

Private, nonprofit human service and advocacy organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 that provide emergency assistance to people in crisis; address the causes of poverty through programs that fight unemployment, inadequate housing, poor nutrition and lack of educational opportunity; and provide training in advocacy skills. Community Action Agencies (CAAs), also known as Community Action Programs (CAPs), operate a variety of core services in the communities they serve. Included are GED and ESL education, job training programs, Head Start and day care, weatherization and energy assistance programs, health services, services for older adults (e.g., Foster Grandparents and RSVP), emergency food assistance and homelessness prevention programs. They are also involved in affordable housing creation and renovation and small business assistance.

- BROCC – Community Action in Southwestern Vermont (Rutland)
- Capstone Community Action (CCA) (Barre)
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Inc. (CVOEO) (Burlington)
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. (NEKCA) (Newport)
- Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) (Westminster)

## Reach Up (RU) Program

### Administering Agency:

Department for Children and Families (DCF), Economic Services Division (ESD)

### Funding:

TANF and State General Funds

### Housing/Services Description:

Reach Up helps parents on their path to financial well-being by providing opportunities to develop job skills, obtain training, find work, and address challenges such as housing, childcare, and transportation. Housing-related grants/services include:

- Grant with Lund Family Center (Burlington) – Independence Place provides transitional housing, case coordination services and supports to stabilize at-risk RU families. Capacity to serve 7 women and their children. Eligibility: low-income single women, ages 16-24 who are pregnant or parenting a child under the age of five. Women can remain in program for a maximum of 24 months.
- Funds two RU Case Managers at COTS in Burlington and one at the Samaritan House in St. Albans who can assist with housing.
- The RU Program also has Housing Case Managers in Springfield, Bennington and Brattleboro who can assist RU participants to find housing, assist with landlord-tenant mediation, and connect participants to rental subsidy programs.

## Vermont Network against Domestic & Sexual Violence

### Providers:

[Service map of programs and shelters](#)

### Housing/Services Description:

#### Services of member organizations include:

- **Private Help:** Network member organizations will not share any information about individuals unless they allow it.
- **Hotlines/Support Line:** Pride Center of VT SafeSpace Program (available statewide) provides a support line 5 days/week. All other member organizations staff a free hotline 24 hours a day, every day.
- **Help to Meet Basic Needs:** Staff help people learn about resources to meet their basic needs.
- **Legal Help:** Staff give information about legal issues and go with victims to court.
- **Help at the Hospital:** Staff can meet people at the hospital after a sexual or physical assault.
- **Shelter:** Staff help victims find short-term shelter. Approximately 125 beds available statewide.



## Youth Development Program (YDP)

### Administering Agency:

DCF Family Services Division (FSD); administered through the Washington County Youth Services Bureau

### Funding:

Federal – HHS Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

State - Vermont Youth in Transition Law of 2007 (Act 74)\*

### Providers:

- Spectrum (Burlington, St. Albans)
- Easter Seals Vermont (Hartford, Springfield, Rutland, Middlebury)
- Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (St. Johnsbury)
- Youth Services, Inc. (Brattleboro)
- Washington County Youth Service Bureau (Montpelier)
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport)
- Sunrise Family Resource Center (Bennington)
- Lamoille Restorative Center (Morrisville)

### Housing/Services Description:

YDP provides voluntary, extended care services to youth who have been in DCF custody to help them make the transition to adulthood. Youth are referred to YDP at age 15 by their DCF caseworker. Youth Development Coordinators who work for youth serving agencies in all of the regions of the state provide life skills classes and training to foster youth under the age of 18, and become their full time case manager when they turn 18. Services include educational, vocational, employment, housing assistance, transportation, and case management.

In addition to the support services provided to 18-21 year old former foster youth,\*\* they are eligible for three types of direct housing-related supports authorized and funded through the Youth in Transition Act:

- 1) **Support for High School Completion** - offers youth who turn 18 while in care extended placement so long as they remain enrolled in high school or a GED program; includes full room and board costs as well as the costs of supplemental services provided to them prior to reaching 18.
- 2) **Adult Living Partners** – for youth who have completed high school but wish to continue living with a supportive adult or family, a room and board stipend is provided to the adults partnering with the youth in their home.
- 3) **Housing Supports** – for youth who have either moved through these other types of extended care or are looking to move directly into their own living arrangement, monthly stipends and incidental one-time grants may be provided to youth to cover part of the cost of their living; youth are required to be employed and cover at least a portion of their monthly living costs.

### Eligibility:

Youth ages 15-22 involved or formerly involved with DCF-Family Services. Some services are only available to youth if they were in DCF custody on or after their 16th birthday, and some are only available if youth are already 18 years old.

### Other Relevant Information:

FSD recently revised its policy on runaway, abducted, and missing youth to provide guidance on working with suspected victims of trafficking. A screening tool and standalone policy on sex trafficking cases and working with victims has been developed. FSD is collaborating with partners from the court, residential treatment programs, and other community providers to work together in identifying and supporting at-risk youth. Challenges include: Identifying and developing least restrictive placement options for victims of trafficking who are prone to running away; identifying a trafficking-specific victim advocacy organization to partner with FSD statewide; community awareness of state and federal laws and understanding of child/youth sex trafficking; and possible caseload implications.

YDP staff also received training from Outright Vermont, an LGBTQ education and advocacy organization, on issues and challenges faced by transition aged youth.

\*Vermont elects to not participate in federal Title IV-E option to extend supports to age 21 because of the availability and flexibility of these funds.

\*\*Efforts are underway to expand eligibility to youth ages 22-25 in the process of completing a postsecondary education credential.

## DMH Housing & Services Programs

### Administering Agency:

AHS Department of Mental Health (DMH)

### Funding:

Blend of Federal (Medicaid) and State Revenue

### Providers:

A network of nonprofit community-based agencies that serve as [Designated Agencies \(DAs\)](#) and provide statewide mental health services

### Housing/Services Description:

Youth age 12-17 have access to age-appropriate intervention and treatment (e.g. motivational enhancement, substance abuse prevention, screening and intervention services, cognitive behavioral and family services) that address their developmental issues and provide comprehensive and integrated services.

DMH also has [protocols](#) in place to make the transition of youth who are receiving services from a DA, or are in custody of DCF, and are likely to be meet criteria for Community Rehabilitation Treatment (CRT) services as seamless as possible. The protocol begins upon a youth's 17th birthday if they will likely meet CRT criteria by the time they turn 18 years old. CRT services include housing supports, employment, and other services and supports.

DMH operates the following state-funded housing programs for which transition age youth may be eligible:

- **Housing Subsidy + Care** - provides tenant- and project based rental assistance and security deposits for households with serious mental illness who are homeless and residing in an acute care bed in the mental health system. VSHA administers 101 of these vouchers on behalf of DMH.
- **Mental Health Contingency Fund** – provides rental subsidies, security deposits and move-in costs for households with serious mental illness who are enrolled in CRT services.

### Other Relevant Information:

The Vermont Youth Treatment Enhancement Program is implementing a pilot two evidence-based practices, the Seven Challenges (serving adolescents) and Seeking Safety (serving transition-aged youth), to enhance Vermont's capacity to provide behavioral health services to youth and their families. The Program is making adjustments to the service system to support the replication and expanded use of these practices across the state of Vermont.

At the systems level, changes are guided by the Youth Service System Enhancement Council. This Council is hosted and supported by AHS and includes representatives from state agencies that manage substance abuse, mental health, health, child welfare, Juvenile Justice and Medicaid services. It also includes representatives of the treatment provider community, and the youth and families who are being served.

## Department of Corrections (DOC) Transitional/Re-Entry Housing

### Administering Agency:

AHS Department of Corrections (DOC)

### Providers:

[Transitional Housing & Housing Placement Assistance Providers](#)

### Description:

DOC provides transitional housing with supportive services for offenders reentering the community from incarceration. In FY2018, there were approximately 343 beds available statewide. Transitional Housing provides temporary (generally up to 24 months) housing for offenders in need of a stable living environment and provides support for a transition to independent living. Supportive Services include, but are not limited to, case management, structured daily schedules, phased supervision levels, community referrals, transportation, employment support/training, and life skills education. Some beds are for individuals who are over age 21 and in recovery from substance abuse, and for individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder; many consider sex offenders for placement.

In addition to funding transitional housing beds and case management, DOC also funds assistance with housing search and retention.

### Youth-Specific Capacity:

Return House, located in Barre and operated by Washington County Youth Service Bureau, has 10 beds dedicated to male youth under the age of 25.

## ADAP Housing & Services Programs

### Administering Agency:

AHS Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP)

### Providers:

The 7 contracted sober living providers include:

- Phoenix House - RISE (Bellows Falls/Brattleboro)
- NEKCA – Aries House (St. Johnsbury)
- Recovery House – Grace House (Rutland)
- Covered Bridge Therapeutic Community (St. Johnsbury)
- Morningside House (Brattleboro)
- Springfield Supported Housing (Springfield)
- Second Wind Foundation - Willow Grove (Wilder)

### Housing/Services Description:

Among the treatment and services ADAP offers for which youth may be eligible include screening for drug and alcohol use and co-occurring disorders, services for pregnant and parenting women, and school-based substance abuse services.

ADAP also contracts for roughly 66 sober, transitional housing (3-24 months) beds annually for substance involved individuals and families throughout the state.

### Eligibility/Referral:

Individuals or families are typically referred by treatment providers and there are admissions requirements related to the duration of abstinence prior to admission. In many cases, providers require admission to be subsequent to residential treatment or concurrent to intensive outpatient treatment to ensure the individual is not at risk of detoxification symptoms.

### Other Relevant Information:

Feedback from providers suggests wide variations in individuals/families accessing transitional housing services, though most providers agreed that the psychiatric co-occurrence is much greater than they have historically been accustomed to, both in terms of acuity and frequency. Additionally, some providers have reported challenges related to the increasing admissions for individuals receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT) while others providers have developed policies and procedures to monitor and support the safe, self-management of any psychotropic or anti-addiction medications.

## Chafee Education & Training Voucher (ETV) Program

**Administering Agency:**

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) on behalf of DCF

**Funding:**

Federal - HHS Chafee Educational & Training Voucher (ETV) Program

**Description:**

ETV provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care and provides post-secondary educational and training vouchers for youth likely to experience difficulty as they transition to adulthood after the age of 18. The program makes available vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year for post-secondary education and training for eligible youth.

**Eligibility:** The ETV Program is intended to serve:

- Youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18,
- Youth who were adopted or under kinship guardianship at age 16 or older, and
- Youth 18–21 who have aged out of the foster care system

## Jump on Board for Success (JOBS) Program

**Administering Agency:**

Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with the Departments of Corrections, Mental Health and Children and Families

**Funding:**

Federal - U.S. Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants, coordinated with Medicaid funded non-vocational services considered essential for individuals' employment success

**Housing/Services Description:**

JOBS is an innovative supported employment and intensive case management service that targets youth ages 16 – 21 with severe emotional disturbance who are already estranged from the community. The targeted youth are out of school or seriously at risk of dropping out and are at high risk for involvement with corrections, substance abuse, homelessness, physical abuse or abusive behaviors, or other concerning behaviors.

**Eligibility:**

Youth experiencing or at risk for the most severe disabilities, eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation and be out of school at the time of program initiation. Out of school is defined as:

- A drop-out; a graduate or General Education Development Certificate (GED) recipient; an enrollee in Community High School or Vermont Adult Learning; OR
- Seriously at risk for leaving public high school or an alternative school program prior to successful completion due to:
  - Being 6 months or less prior to graduation and having multiple risk factors (homelessness or impending homelessness, lack of parental involvement, involvement with State Department of Corrections, OR
  - Having a history of school suspensions or expulsions, school violence, truancy or other serious ongoing disciplinary actions, OR Being scheduled to be in school less than half time, OR Having a serious lack of accumulated credits.

“At risk” may include one or more of the following issues:

- Being homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, OR
- Receiving SSI, OR
- A history of involvement with State/DOC (are or have been under community supervision and/or have been incarcerated), OR
- A history of involvement with DCF (foster care, juvenile justice, economic services).