HHAV Annual State Legislative Priorities
Process & Timeline

Below are details and a timeline for HHAV's 2027 state legislative priority setting process. This will be used to gather and decide HHAV's state legislative policies and state budget priorities for the 2027 state legislative session. Please read this document carefully before submitting your proposed issues for consideration. Only HHAV members can submit issues for consideration. We strongly encourage HHAV members to collaborate on proposals. Multiple proposals can be submitted. A limited number of issues will be chosen for the 2027 legislative agenda based on the criteria below. Open office hours will be available via Zoom and call in option (see details below). We ask members to **submit applications by Noon, November 2.** To complete the 2027 state policy priorities submission form, follow this link: https://bit.ly/4B9xYrz

2026 Process Outline/Timeline

Process	By When
Board approves provisional process during the Aug 10 board meeting. Tasked the Executive Committee to finalize with Chad by Sept 9.	9/9/26
Present full process at the Sept 22 membership meeting.	9/22/26
Members able to submit proposed priorities for consideration between Oct 16 and Noon on Nov 2. Weekly (Fridays) "open office hours" will be available for all members to attend, ask questions and identify opportunities for collaboration. Recordings and FAQs will be posted on HHAV's 2027 Advocacy page	11/2/26
Board reviews and approves 2027 State Legislative Priorities at a special Board meeting in early November.	TBD
Present approved policy platform at the Nov 10 membership meeting. Announce process for appointing the State Policy Advisory Committee to be chosen by November 20.	11/10/26
Chad & lobbying team, with member engagement, lead publicity and outreach of platform between Nov 10 and the beginning of legislative session.	11/10/26
State Policy Advisory Committee meet at least once in December. Set schedule for weekly or bi-weekly beginning the January 4.	Mid-May 2026

Legislative Priority Submission & Consideration Process

HHAV members submit policy priority applications to HHAV. If there is more than one (1) priority, we ask that members submit one application per proposal/issue. Members can submit as many priorities for consideration as desired. A limited number of issues will be chosen for the full 2027 agenda. We strongly encourage members to collaborate on priorities and submit as one application.

- To submit your proposed policy/budget issue for consideration, follow this Microsoft Forms link: https://bit.ly/4B9xYrz
- **Complete and submit by November 2, Noon.** Please contact Grace Shyer if you have any issues accessing or submitting applications, GShyer@hhav.org.
- All materials, including previous year's agenda, testimony, and summaries will be linked on HHAV's advocacy page. https://helpingtohousevt.org/advocacy/
- HHAV asks that all applications come from member organizations. To see if you organization is a member or to and an HHAV member, go to: https://helpingtohousevt.org/membership/
- HHAV staff and contract lobbyist will hold "open office hours" on Fridays during the month of October from 11am-Noon to answer questions and support members in applying. This will be held via Zoom (video or call in). If you did not receive a calendar invite with Zoom/call in details, please contact Grace at GShyer@hhav.org
- **Application questions (all must be answered in order to be considered).**
    - Contact information:
        - Name of primary contact for the organization
        - Member organization name
        - Email address
        - Phone number
    - What is the issue (2-4 sentences)? Describe, in plain language, the policy change or investment that your organization or collaborative would like to see proposed during the 2027 legislative session.
    - If budget related, how much and which budget (State Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Adjustment Act (BAA), FY28 or both)? (If not budget related, type "NA")
    - If policy related, what policy already exists that impacts your ask? In plain language, what is the policy fix or proposal you are trying to accomplish? (provide any links, citations to support the ask including existing state statute, research, etc) (If not policy related, type "NA")
    - What is the anticipated need? Please point to the most recent Housing Needs Assessment, National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) research, most recent Point-In Time (PIT) count (see below for 2026), Housing Management

Information System (HMIS) or other publicly verifiable data source that shows the need.

- Capacity within the system of care? (i.e. Can Vermont's housing and homelessness system handle this policy change, or, will additional investments/policy change be needed first in order to pass). To the best of your knowledge, please share 2-3 sentences on the potential capacity of Vermont's system of care
- What is the anticipated impact (Qualitative, 2-3 sentences and quantitative (data))?
- Timing/urgency. Is this an immediate, medium-term or long-term need?
- Statewide impact. Does it reach all parts of the state equitably? Please describe statewide reach in 2-3 sentences.
- Political support. Describe (2-3 sentences) existing political support or opposition to the proposed priority.
- What is your organization's capacity to implement this priority December 2026-June 2027 (# of staff FTE, # of hours/week…estimated. Ability to give testimony and write content for testimony and/or memos (with support by HHAV)). Provide an honest assessment and don't hesitate to name that your organization/group may have little to no capacity. We encourage collaboration amongst HHAV member organizations. As staff and board review the proposals, we will take an equity approach related to organizational capacity as a factor in the agenda setting process.
- What, explicitly, is needed from HHAV to be successful? (i.e. material creation, testimony, coalition building to create broad support amongst members, strategy development, strategic communication, publicity, etc).

Priority Review/Approval

Once HHAV staff have received all of the applications, we will work with our contract lobbyists to review and propose a 2027 state legislative agenda to present to the board in early November. The board will be reviewing the proposal based on the following set of criteria. Please review carefully and respond to the above questions with these in mind.

- Criteria for consideration in determining the state policy agenda:
    - Included in the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan?
    - Included in the Policy Guide (approved in 2025)?
    - Impact on providing shelter or permanent housing?
    - Preventing housing insecurity and homelessness?

- Capacity within the system of care? (i.e. Can Vermont's housing and homelessness system handle this policy change, or will additional investments/policy change be needed first in order to pass)
- Does the Member or collaboration submitting the proposed priority have the capacity to support the advocacy efforts?
- What is being asked of HHAV to support this effort?
- Does HHAV have the capacity to do the work requested (including being the lead) and do it well? (For HHAV staff, board and contract lobbyists to answer)
- Timing/urgency. Is this an immediate, medium-term or long-term need?
- Statewide impact. Does it reach all parts of the state equitably?
- Political reality of support

HHAV State Policy Advisory Committee

- Purpose: To advise and inform HHAV staff and contract lobbyists in the successful implementation of the annual state legislative priorities platform
- Membership: Representatives of HHAV-member organizations who reflect the policy priorities of that legislative session. Committee members will (1) represent their policy area, not just their individual organization; (2) advise/inform strategic decision making throughout the session in relation to the full platform; (3) support/inform research and testimony development; and (4) testify, as needed and as capacity allows, and/or suggest others who could testify.
- Appointments: Once the annual policy priorities have been set by the board, the board will then invite members with the appropriate expertise to participate on the committee. The board will choose the committee members based on capacity and ability to represent member perspectives on the given issue. Members are asked to come with a collaborative mindset for working through difficult and complex policy choices that will arise during the session. Terms will begin and end in November, with a new committee seated annually after the creation of that year's policy priorities.
- Size: Ideally, 5-8 members representing a diversity of HHAV member sectors (shelter provider, nonprofit housing developer, medical/mental health provider, service provider, lived experience). The board may select more than 8 (or fewer than 5) depending upon alignment of subject matter needs, noted affiliations, and roster of applicants.
- Meetings: Held virtually or in person as capacity allows. Cadence will likely be weekly (and additional as needed) during the legislative session (January-May), to be determined by Chad and the committee. The committee will also be asked to advise on any changes needed in the policy setting process in May/June of each year.

- Policy advocacy training: Members of this committee will be asked to participate in an advocacy training covering Vermont budget making and policy development processes. This training will be open to all HHAV members, but Advocacy Committee members will be asked to participate.

Data to Inform Your Proposal

HHAV asks that members reference specific data, as best as possible, to support the proposed policy issue or budget request. Below are several resources that can be used. We invite other sources to be used/referenced as well.

National Low-Income Housing Coalition

- Out of Reach report (cost of rental apartments) https://nlihc.org/oor
- The Gap. Shortage of affordable housing https://nlihc.org/gap

Vermont Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HHAV is still working with our partners on the full release of the 2026 PIT count. Click here for the 2025 report. Below are preliminary data that can inform your application. The full report is expected to be released in late October/early November and will be posted on HHAV's website here: https://helpingtohousevt.org/pointintime/

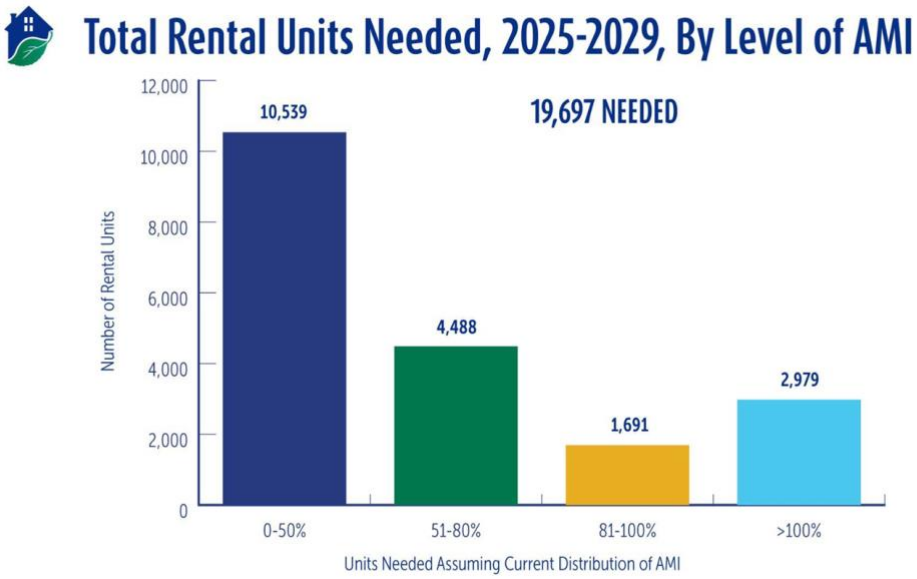
- 3286 people were identified as experiencing homelessness. This represents a 3% decline from 2025.
- Adult-only households accounted for 1,746 households (82%), while households with adults and children represented 384 households (18%).
- Child homelessness increased by 5% in 2026 compared to 2025. A total of 667 children under the age of 18 were identified during the count. This represents approximately 20% of all people experiencing homelessness.
- 1 in 3 people experiencing homelessness identified as chronically homeless (953)
- There was a 5% increase in unsheltered homelessness (253) compared to 2025, with Chittenden County seeing the largest increase across the state.
- Of the people experiencing homelessness, 89% were staying in emergency shelter (2932). Of those people staying in emergency shelter, 72% were sheltered through the General Assistance (GA) hotel/motel program.
- In 2026, the statewide temporary housing and shelter capacity was 3359, according to the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). Of those, 2120 were hotel/motel beds, and 259 were Domestic and/or Sexual Violence (DV/SV) shelter beds.
- **1,116 adults (34%)** reported living with a **serious mental illness**, making behavioral health one of the most significant service needs identified during the PIT Count. Adults reporting a

substance use disorder accounted for **580 individuals (18%)**, while nearly **250 adults** identified as survivors of DV/SV.

- A racial and ethnic disparity in people experiencing homelessness continues, with a 9% increase of people who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) compared to white alone

2025-2029 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) & Subsequent Analysis

US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)-mandated component. Click here for the latest report, done by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA). More housing data can be found at: www.housingdata.org. Further data exploring the housing needs by Area Median Income (AMI) can be summarized by these two graphs, provided by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB).



Homeownership Housing Production Goals

2025-2029, by AMI

