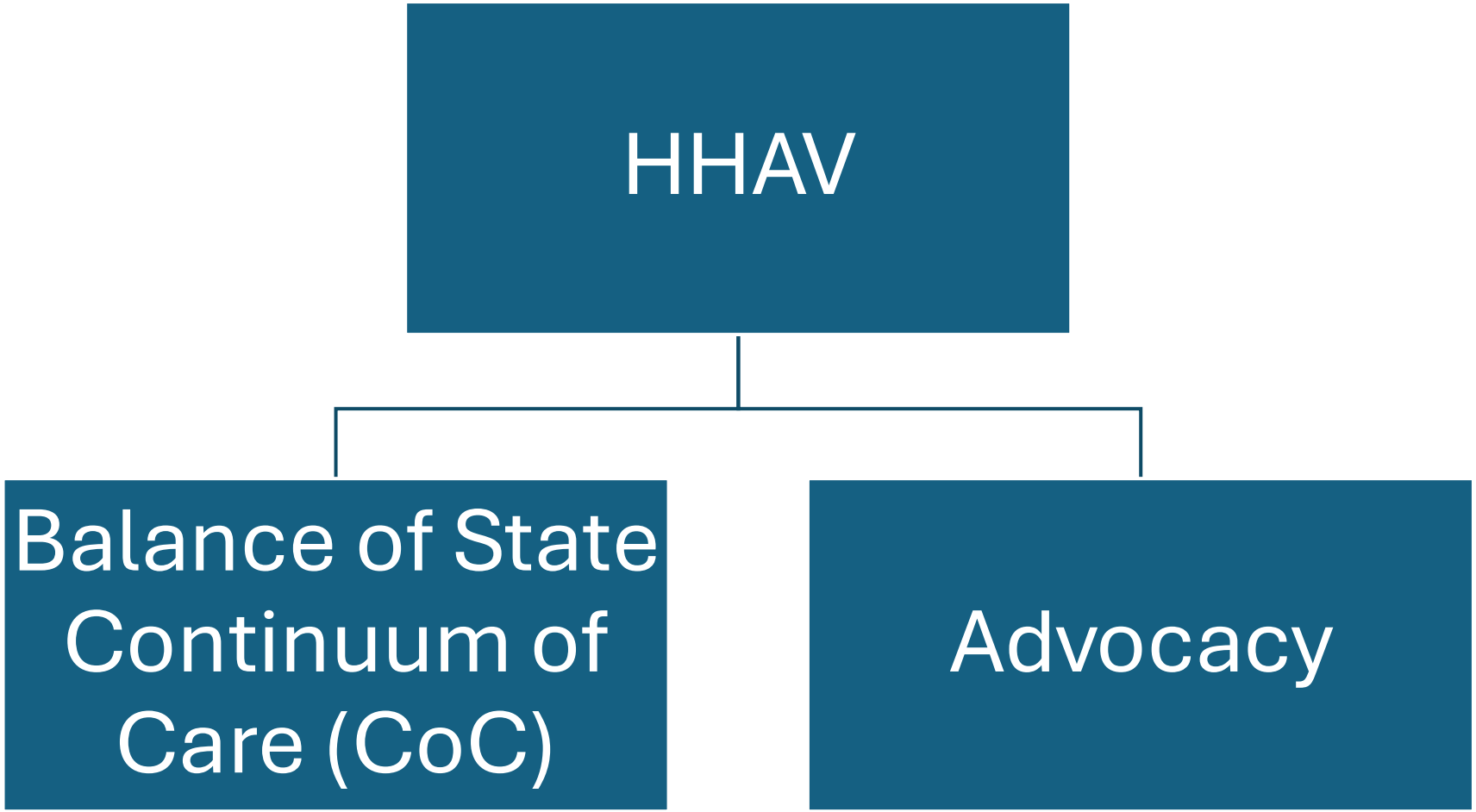
Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont

Act 143 Implementation: Impacts on People & Providers

Joint Fiscal Committee
Chad Simmons, HHAV Executive Director
September 16, 2026

Build a Vermont where
the fundamental right to housing
is enjoyed by all

Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont



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VT CoCs & Local Housing Coalitions (LHCs)

BoS CoC

Chittenden County Homelessness Alliance (CCHA)

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VT CoCs & Local Housing Coalitions (LHCs)

Addison	Bennington	Brattleboro Area (Windham South)	Franklin & Grand Isle
Lamoille	NEK (Caledonia, Essex, Orleans)	Rutland	Springfield (Windsor South & Windham North)
	Upper Valley (Orange & Windsor North)	Washington	

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Rules & early implementation
fail to meet the full **intent** of Act 143

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Realizing the Full Intent of Act 143

- "…ending **GA** hotel/motel" and "reduce **reliance"** on hotel/motel use for emergency shelter is only part of Act 143 intent.
- Unsheltered homelessness be **eliminated** and that homelessness in Vermont **be rare, brief, and nonrecurring**
- A continuum of supports and services be available and administered **flexibly** in a manner that:
    - (A) **provides a stable pathway to permanent housing**;
    - (B) **meets the specific needs** of households experiencing homelessness; and
    - (C) **supports community partners**.

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We are seeking more & deeper **collaboration**

People with lived experience & providers are the **experts** & should be **co-designing** with DCF & OEO

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Discontinuing **211** after-hours/weekend/holiday resource options for those seeking hotels/motels as emergency shelter was rash, harmful & not made with community input

We ask this decision be reconsidered & **211** be seen as the **asset & partner** they already are

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Contacting Economic Services Division (ESD) has created **chaos & unnecessary barriers** to accessing hotel/motel options for those in need

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HOU-SING assessment is a **direct barrier** to accessing life-saving supports, **not trauma informed** and **not** a “brief, standardized initial assessment”

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Eligibility, prioritization, extensions…these should be simple, clear, accessible processes. **Not** barriers.

Lack of flexibility is creating **more unsheltered homelessness** & **more strain** on already strained **providers**

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Extreme Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) program is a **promising initiative**
getwarmnowvt.org

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Partnership with Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) to **support shelter development** is progress

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Questions & Requests

- Seeking direct collaboration to co-design Act 143
- Reconsider 211 decision
- Remove added layers of bureaucracy, barriers & easier ways for people & providers to communicate with ESD
- Discontinue use of HOU-SING assessment & replace with brief, standardized and trauma-informed assessment.

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Questions & Requests

- Is DCF ensuring all available hotels/motels are being utilized for those eligible & in need? Can DCF provide an update FY27 budget spend rate?
- So far, how many have applied for level 4? How many have been accepted? Denied? What options are those people given?
- What efforts are underway to better align priorities & investments from both DCF & Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)?

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Thank You, Questions & Contact

- Questions or requests from HHAV
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