



JGHS NEWS | Summer 2023

State of Vermont Housing Opportunity Funding FY24

John Graham Housing & Services (JGHS) has been awarded \$596,731 in State of VT Housing Opportunity Program (HOP) funding for the 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024). JGHS HOP funding supports:

- Emergency Shelter Operations: 24/7 operations and staffing at the John Graham Shelter and one emergency apartment in Vergennes
- Emergency Shelter Essential Services: Service coordination for households in shelter to ensure basic needs are addressed and referrals to mainstream services and benefits are made
- Coordinated Entry Services: Staffing to provide intake, assessment, referrals, housing navigation services, and follow-up for unhoused individuals and families

The HOP program is the primary source of funding for most housing agencies providing emergency shelter and affordable housing throughout Vermont. HOP-funded services are meant to connect households with a range of benefits and services, including physical, mental, and behavioral health, and to help remove barriers to getting housing and help households maintain housing. Additionally, HOP-funded service coordinators provide follow up services for households after they exit shelter to permanent housing.

The HOP program is administered by the State Office of Economic Opportunity to help nonprofit partners, including community and faith-based organizations operating within their local Continuum of Care, to: provide emergency overnight and day shelter; provide transitional housing where appropriate; offer essential services to shelter residents; rapidly re-house homeless families and individuals in permanent housing; prevent individuals and families experiencing housing crisis from

becoming homeless, and implement coordinated entry to streamline client access to resources.

HOP's goals are to:

1. Decrease the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
2. Shorten the length of time people are unhoused
3. Reduce the number of individuals and families returning to homelessness
4. Prevent people from becoming unhoused



John Graham Shelter

A guiding principle of the HOP grant program is to tie assistance activities to permanent housing through systems, practices, and initiatives that are informed by data and evidence-based approaches. While the program addresses the needs of unhoused people in emergency shelter, the primary focus is to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness.

Emergency Housing Program Extended

A bill approved by the Vermont House and Senate on June 20 preserves eligibility for all households currently in the motel program until they find alternative living situations.

The bill does not retroactively re-enroll the 760 households that were exited from the motel voucher program on June 1st, but it does provide transition support for those who are still in the program who are most vulnerable—approximately 1,200 households that include families with children, people with disabilities and people over the age of 62

The legislation also increases legislative oversight of the motel program, directing the administration to provide monthly reports on the number of households who have found alternative housing and barriers to housing for those who remain in motels.



Vermont State House, Montpelier

The bill also directs the entity that spearheads publicly financed affordable housing construction — the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board — to double the number of new affordable units for people exiting homelessness.

There remain significant concerns about the future of the motel housing program, with five Progressive lawmakers in the House saying the latest extension still results in trauma to the state’s unhoused population.

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CONTACT US: John Graham Housing & Services
69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491 • Phone: (802) 877-2677
info@johngrahamshelter.org • www.johngrahamshelter.org

Please help us support the individuals and families we serve with your gift today!

GIVE TO JGHS: <https://www.johngrahamshelter.org/donate2>

Donate by Mail: John Graham Housing & Services, 69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491-1114

Donations may be applied to:

Elise & Jim Blair Fund (clinical services) Operations

Also, please remember John Graham Housing & Services in your estate plans.