



Organization Name: Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

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Geographical Area: Chittenden County, Burlington District

Project Name: Ensuring Safe Transition for Vulnerable Populations

Areas of Interest: #7: Critical needs related to preventing and addressing unsheltered homelessness

Background:

Chittenden County experiences a lack of emergency shelter options for people experiencing homelessness. Due to the impending sunset of the VT Economic Services Division (ESD) Motel Program, we anticipate a large number of households to exit motels and, without adequate shelter options, will be forced to live unsheltered in camps, parking garages, and places not intended for habitation. According to the most recent data available, Chittenden County expects the following impacts:

June 1, 2023

- 170 households, including 194 people

July 28, 2023*

- 184 households, including 318 people, consisting of the following vulnerable sub-populations:
 - 56 families, including 115 children
 - 92 people with disabilities
 - 15 people aged 65 years+
 - 4 households fleeing domestic violence
 - 2 pregnant people

Enclosed, please find the CCHA's proposal to respond to urgent and critical needs of people experiencing homelessness within Chittenden County.

*data provided by ESD 5/19/2023; to be updated as more recent data is provided



Justification: The most recent data (above) indicates a large number of families (including minor children), adults with disabilities eligible for or receiving homehealth and/or hospice services, seniors (65 years+), and pregnant households residing within the ESD Motel Program. Estimates, (as of 5/19/2023) provided by AHS Field Services, indicate as many as 165 households fall within these vulnerable categories. It is the position of the City of Burlington Administration and the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (local Continuum of Care) that placement of these vulnerable sub-populations in congregate shelter is damaging and unsuitable. This position is supported by several studies identifying the trauma sustained by congregate shelter stay, specifically in minor children:

- *The Impact of Homelessness on Children:*

https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/67217899/Rafferty1991AmPsychol-libre.pdf?1620274667=&response-content-disposition=attachment%3B+filename%3DThe_impact_of_homelessness_on_children.pdf&Expires=1685071009&Signature=WrfkOhn83JSu-zWot4UNITzH5T3NzUII9cao5qjChpo~k3pjI0AJohBuSJgBfNanDSXQ02AiYr3F58DkrcSY94gG7A-PK6OBod0CVVzW5ZGEmnEQnPbmkZ9~cXAFwoo~E2O11sGVVwQ9dq7z2VRjMIJW6IIT25CDAQaunFmKtEAI22v8DCdtXcMWS61kg73N-jasa8UiKtSvEnpH~0K2grRST9tB-WE73iAONGVZOUVRADvtFLA4AlvQXV3Ch6--meElZsMnz-a7FomAhZamDvCGZXkY69jxrwne09ZGltfDHQbc3Crbw6IDWuCQJh4hWzVptz0WaX77SDVqcmMA_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA

- *Child Homelessness: A Growing Crisis* <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/child-homelessness-growing-crisis>

- *Children’s Rights: A Youth Account of Congregate Placements in New York:* https://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/CR-2023-AreYouListening_report_web.pdf

Recent local data also indicates that 20 of the households currently access home-health, palliative, or hospice services within the ESD Motel Program. Congregate shelter is unable to accommodate these services. Additionally, 20 households have mobility issues or require assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) that would pose challenges to accessing congregate or daytime shelter options. The CCHA Steering Committee, comprised of nearly 30 local agencies and stakeholders, perceives that exiting these vulnerable populations with complex needs from the ESD Motel program is both unacceptable and unnecessary, as Chittenden County currently has the resources to transition these families directly into appropriate permanent housing within 5-8 months.

The CCHA Steering Committee proposes extended motel stay for the above mentioned vulnerable sub-populations to enable our Coordinated Entry system to expedite housing placement. We intend to do the following and solidify by affirmative vote on June 8th:

- Approve Prioritization Policy for the following sub-population within motels:
 - Families with minor children
 - People receiving homehealth and/or hospice services
 - Seniors, 65yrs. And older
 - Pregnant people
- Establish local Command Team comprised of housing, rental subsidy, and service providers
- Identify Local Team Lead to coordinate rapid housing placement and track outcomes for the duration of this project



Chittenden County reports creation of 112 new homeless-dedicated units during CY2023. Affordable and designated units will be matched with available subsidy programs such as Homes Vouchers, Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers, Family Unification Program subsidy, local preferences for subsidized multifamily, tax credit, and senior-designated units. We will engage both public and private housing providers, as well as new connections through the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP). Households will be connected with new support services including Children's Integrated Services, Home Visiting, mental health and recovery supports, and referrals for priority populations (including children and families) to residential treatment programs (such as Lund) to ensure a more coordinated approach is taken, ensuring households are not isolated during this time. Howard Center has committed to prioritizing households in motels for mental health and substance use services. These represent new investment to ensure people in motels access all services necessary and extending motel stay for these vulnerable populations enables both stability of temporary housing and services.

We believe we can support a compassionate, respectful, and orderly transition for vulnerable households from the ESD Motel Program with adequate time and planning- and with intensive coordination efforts. According to CCHA data, 20-25 households exit from homelessness, via Coordinated Entry System, each month. Our goal will be to ensure (to the extent possible, eligibility- and housing resource-dependent) that all households exit from this extended motel stay to permanent or transitional housing by February 2024.

The CCHA Steering Committee, with unanimous vote, approved this proposal during its June 8th meeting.

It is for this justification CCHA strongly advocates for continued motel stay following for these vulnerable sub-populations as proposed below:

- State of VT AHS funds continued motel stays for up to 165 vulnerable households, provided that;
- The household entered the program prior to May 1, 2023; and
- All households enroll in Coordinated Entry and engage with case management/housing navigation services; and
- All households eligible for the Homes Voucher Program apply; and
- Households with Homes Voucher engage in housing search; and
- CCHA will intensely coordinate with Champlain Housing Trust, Burlington Housing Authority, Winooski Housing Authority, VT State Housing Authority, Cathedral Square, and private housing providers to ensure housing plans are created and implemented and that federal (or State) rental assistance programs are utilized to the highest extent possible; and
- The Chittenden County Homeless Alliances' (CCHA) Coordinated Entry System prioritizes households within this extended motel stay for appropriate housing resources; and

Budget:

Team Lead Staff Member: \$90,272 (assumes \$28 per hour, 55% fringe rate, 12 months)

Host Agency: TBD



Additional Information:

Assumes 20 households exit per month (7 months); Assumes 20 households will move to permanent units in month of July

	Households	Bed Nights	Cost (\$125/Night)
Aug	145	4495	\$ 561,875
Sep	125	3750	\$ 468,750
Oct	105	3255	\$ 406,875
Nov	85	2550	\$ 318,750
Dec	65	2015	\$ 251,875
Jan	45	1395	\$ 174,375
Feb	25	700	\$ 87,500
			\$ 2,270,000

Assumes 25 households exit per month (7 months); Assumes 25 households will move to permanent units during month of July

	Households	Bed Nights	Cost (\$125/Night)
Aug	140	4340	\$ 542,500
Sep	115	3450	\$ 431,250
Oct	90	2790	\$ 348,750
Nov	65	1950	\$ 243,750
Dec	40	1240	\$ 155,000
Jan	15	465	\$ 58,125
			\$ 1,779,375