

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - 2024 APPLICATION**

*Application must be no more than 12 total pages (including cover page) with 12-point font.  
Refer to NOFA for required information for each question.*

Project Name: Housing First Services in Chittenden County

Project Location / Address: 1 Mill Street Suite #327, Burlington, VT 05401

Applicant Organization / Agency: Pathways Vermont

Mailing Address: 1 Kennedy Drive, Unit L2 South Burlington, VT 05403

Physical Address: 1 Kennedy Drive, Unit L2 South Burlington, VT 05403

Contact: Maria Moore Title: Director of Development and Communications Phone #: [REDACTED]

Web Address: pathwaysvermont.org Email: [REDACTED]

EIN #: [REDACTED] DUNS #: [REDACTED]

**CDBG Funding Request: \$35,000**

**Total Estimated Program/Project Cost: \$1,169,437**

*Choose one category from Development OR one category from Public Service:*

**Development:** (choose one)  Economic Development  Affordable Housing  
 Public Facilities/Improvements

OR

**Public Service:** (choose one)  Early Childhood Ed/Childcare  Youth Services  Health  
 Economic Opportunity  Housing and Homelessness

**1. Type of Organization**

Local Government

For-Profit Organization

Faith-Based Organization

Non-Profit Organization (please provide copy of your  
IRS 501(c)(3) tax exemption letter)

Institution of Higher Education

**Certification**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this proposal are true and correct.

I have been duly authorized to apply for this funding on behalf of this agency.

I understand that this grant funding is conditioned upon compliance with federal CDBG regulations.

I further certify that no contracts have been awarded, funds committed or construction begun on the proposed program, and that none will be prior to issuance of a Release of Funds by the Program Administrator.

Maria Moore

Signature of Authorized Official

Maria Moore

Name of Authorized Official

Director of Development & Comm.

Title

1/12/24

Date

## ***I. Demonstrated Need***

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### **1. What is the need/opportunity being addressed by this program/project and how does that contribute to CDBG's national objectives?**

Pathways Vermont's Housing First Program is addressing homelessness throughout the state of Vermont by supporting individuals with histories of homelessness and other life challenges, including criminal histories, substance use, mental health crises, and trauma, to access and maintain permanent housing. Since 2010, the Housing First Program has housed 873 individuals out of long-term homelessness across the state, many of whom had been identified by community providers as "hard to house." The Pathways Vermont Housing First program falls under CDBG's national objective of supporting individuals with low to moderate income to find housing and community-based supports.

The 2023 Point-In-Time count identified an 18.5% increase in persons experiencing homelessness in Vermont compared to 2022<sup>1</sup>, a 197% increase since the pre-pandemic Point-In-Time Count in 2020. The count was conducted on the night of January 25th, 2023, and found 3,295 Vermonters experiencing literal homelessness, an increase of 515 persons since the 2022 count. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen these numbers steadily increase, which directly parallels the lack of affordable housing in Chittenden County. As such, affordable housing is out of reach for many of our city's residents, particularly those struggling with issues such as substance use and psychiatric disabilities. The Housing First Program proactively addresses this trend by removing all barriers related to abstinence and treatment compliance prior to housing. However, the program's ability to effectively serve the target population is constrained by current funding restrictions. Housing First and Pathways Vermont's other core programs help families and individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters solve the practical and immediate challenges to obtaining permanent housing while reducing the amount of time they experience homelessness and linking them to community resources that enable them to achieve housing stability in the long-term.

1: Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness "2023 Point-in-Time Count Report from 6 June 2023.  
<https://helpingtohousevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-Vermont-Point-in-Time-Report-6-6-23.pdf>

## ***II. Program/Project Design***

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### **1. Give us a short summary (2 sentences) that describe the program/project.**

The Pathways Vermont Housing First Program provides permanent housing placement along with intensive community-based services to individuals with histories of homelessness and institutionalization, most of whom are living with disabling conditions. The program utilizes local housing stock in order to facilitate community reintegration.

### **2. Explain why the program activities are the right strategies to use to achieve the intended outcomes. Why is the program designed the way it is? (cite evidence, best practices, or community input)**

Housing First utilizes an evidence-based model that is recognized by the federal government as the best practice for ending homelessness. The model asserts that while homelessness is a

complex issue with multiple intersecting causes, the solution to homelessness is simple: housing. Housing First programs quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness with independent, permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements. Supportive community-based services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

Individuals experiencing unresolved homelessness are typically caught in what is referred to as the “institutional circuit.” This means that they cycle between crisis services, state institutions, and the streets. This cycle not only has a detrimental impact on the health and well-being of these individuals but also incurs a high utilization of public resources and their associated costs. As a result, it is often more expensive for this population to remain caught in the cycle of homelessness than it is to intervene with permanent housing. For example, the Housing First Program estimates that the daily cost of “homelessness” for the population served prior to program enrollment is \$91.51, while the average daily cost of enrollment in the Housing First Program is \$53.00.

**3. How will this program/project contribute to the City’s anti-poverty strategy? If this activity is to respond to COVID-19, please also describe how this activity prepares or responds to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The Housing First Program directly contributes to Burlington’s 2018 Consolidated Plan by meeting basic needs and stabilizing living situations, including access to and retention of safe, decent and healthy, affordable housing and income supports<sup>1</sup>.

Pathways Vermont participates in coordinated entry, a system to streamline access to housing supports and resources in Chittenden County. By eliminating barriers to housing and prioritizing placement in permanent, pre-existing housing, Pathways Vermont provides the best outcomes for the city’s anti-poverty strategy in terms of both housing retention and cost to the public.

Additionally, Housing First utilizes a scattered site model, which supports the city’s objective of decreasing social isolation among marginalized populations and promotes community integration. Finally, the services provided by the program are designed to support individuals in improving their lives, which for many, means improving their financial situation. This includes enrollment in eligible benefits and entitlements and employment services.

1: City of Burlington 2018-2023 Consolidated Plan (Pg.141)

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/2018%20Consolidated%20Plan%20-%20Draft.pdf>

**4. How do you use community and/or participant input in planning the program design and activities?**

Pathways Vermont is a program participant-driven organization, meaning program participant feedback is an integral part of quality improvement and program planning. Since the beginning of the Housing First program, Pathways Vermont has had a Tenant Advisory Board to facilitate regular feedback on program performance and potential changes. In December 2014, this Board transitioned to a Standing Committee composed of program participants and Pathways board members, which formalizes client feedback to the organization’s board of directors and primary funding source.

### ***III. Proposed Outcomes***

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**1. What are the intended outcomes for this project/program? How are people meant to be better off as a result of participating?**

The primary objective of the Housing First program is to break the cycle of homelessness. This is achieved by providing services that support individuals to access permanent housing and live independently in the community. Once housed, participants are provided long-term, multidisciplinary community supports, including service coordination, drug & alcohol counseling, employment support, psychiatry, nursing care, and representative payee services. In addition to improving overall well-being, the program has a demonstrated record of reducing individuals' reliance on other resources, including state-funded motels, emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric hospitals. Our goal is to serve 88 persons throughout Chittenden County during the CDBG program year, 45 of whom will be served in Burlington.

**2. List your goals/objectives, activities to implement and expected outcomes (# of units, # of individuals, etc.)**

Objective/Goal	Activity	Outcome
End the cycle of homelessness via permanent housing.	Housing search and placement	100% of enrolled clients will find a housing placement; the program maintains at least an 85% housing retention rate.
Individuals improve well-being and independent functioning.	Service planning; service coordination	100% of clients will develop a service plan; 90% of individuals will make progress towards service goals.
Improve financial stability.	Benefits coordination; supported employment	90% of individuals will maintain or increase their income.

**IV. Impact / Evaluation**

**1. How do you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you assess project/program outcomes; your description should include: what type of data, the method/tool for collecting the data, from whom you collect data, and when it is collected.**

Program performance is assessed through the organization's electronic records, self-assessment data, and a program satisfaction survey. Program participants' housing outcomes, income, service engagement, and utilization of emergency services are captured through administrative data. Indicators of well-being, including the level of mental health distress, substance use, and social connectedness, are collected via peer-reviewed measures.

**2. How successful has the project/program been during the most recent reporting year for your CDBG project? Report the number of beneficiaries you intended to serve with which activities (as noted in your last Attachment A) and your final outcomes (as noted on your Attachment C) from June 2023 (or June 2022). For non-CDBG participants – report on your achievements from the previous year.**

On our 2022-2023 CDBG application, we had a goal of serving 103 individuals throughout the CDBG program year through our Chittenden County Housing First program. We anticipated that 48 of those individuals would be housed in Burlington. Even if individuals were ultimately housed outside of the city of Burlington, many clients continue to utilize Burlington community resources or reside within city limits prior to being housed during the Housing Search process. Additionally, even if housed outside of Burlington, many clients continue to utilize Burlington community resources in their search for employment, connection to benefits, and to attain service plan goals.

By the end of the program year, we served 100 total households in Chittenden County, with 47 households housed in Burlington. As projected, all individuals served met Pathways' low/moderate income parameters. Individuals received a variety of supports, including service coordination, housing location and retention supports, benefits coordination, and mental health services. During this period, Pathways Vermont worked with the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance's Coordinated Entry system to identify persons in need of Housing First support. All (100%) clients served during this grant period developed a service plan. During this reporting period, 10 clients worked with housing coordination staff to identify housing via housing search and placement services; 24 clients retained Burlington housing during the project period. One client graduated from services during the reporting period (4.1.23-6.20.23), retaining housing with a Housing Choice Voucher in the Burlington Community. At the end of the grant period, Pathways Vermont was actively serving 34 clients.

It should be noted that Pathways Vermont's Chittenden County housing team finds their work locating and securing affordable housing stock increasingly challenging, particularly in Burlington, where for years, the rental vacancy rate has been well below 2 percent<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, according to the Vermont Housing Needs Assessment: 2020-2024, 89% of the households that are projected to relocate to Vermont between 2020-2025 are projected to live in Chittenden County. The report notes, "This demand is likely a key contributor to elevating Chittenden County... rents 23% higher than the statewide average." Of all counties in the state, "Chittenden County has the highest rates... of both moderate cost burden (spending 30-50% of income on housing) and severe cost burden (spending more than 50% of income on housing)" with 56% of Chittenden County renters paying 30% or more of their monthly income and 29% of renters paying 50% or more of their monthly income on housing expenses. When housing costs consume such a large portion of overall income, other living expenses can be jeopardized, creating housing instability, including increased risk of frequent moves, eviction, and homelessness<sup>2</sup>.

1 & 2: Vermont Housing Finance Agency. Vermont Housing Needs Assessment: 2020-2024. [https://www.vhfa.org/documents/publications/vt\\_hna\\_2020\\_report.pdf](https://www.vhfa.org/documents/publications/vt_hna_2020_report.pdf)

## ***V. Experience / Organizational Capacity***

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**1. What is your agency's mission, and how do the proposed activities fit with your mission?**

Pathways Vermont's mission is to end homelessness in Vermont and provide innovative mental health alternatives. We aspire to minimize barriers that prevent individuals from meeting their essential needs by (a) supporting individuals to overcome these barriers and (b) creating no or low-barrier options where they do not exist. The proposed project would promote access to affordable housing for those who face the greatest barriers, including multiple years of homelessness, mental health challenges, criminal records, and substance use challenges.

**2. Explain how your agency has the capacity to carry out the proposed activity (i.e. staff qualifications, years of experience related to this type of activity, etc.)**

Pathway Vermont's Housing First Program operates using the evidence-based *Housing First* model, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other federal agencies regard as the best practice to end homelessness. The program was the first of its kind in a rural setting when it was implemented in Vermont by Hilary Melton. Hilary Melton is the Executive Director of Pathways Vermont and has 30+ years of experience managing non-profits. Hilary is a national expert in the *Housing First* model, served as the program director for the first Housing First Program in New York in the 1990s, and is a Training Faculty of the Housing First Institute. Hilary worked closely with Sam Tsemberis, who first developed the Housing First model.

The Housing First program has been assessed for fidelity and found to be operating in high fidelity to the practice, as documented in a peer-reviewed article published in the American Journal of Public Health. In addition to Housing First, the program utilizes the practices of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Harm Reduction, and Trauma-Informed Care. These trainings form the foundation of Pathways' unique service delivery model, which has been proven to be effective in supporting individuals who have traditionally been difficult to engage. In 2022, Pathways Vermont added a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team in Chittenden County in partnership with the Department of Mental Health and The Department of Corrections. FACT is an evidence-based forensic adaptation of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) with over 40 years of research and evaluation. FACT is recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as a promising practice that blends criminogenic risk management, substance use, and mental health management, focusing on improving social determinants and health equity. The Pathways FACT Team provides services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system with mental health and/or substance use challenges and who are considered at risk of re-offending.

**3. What steps has your organization/board taken in the past year to address racial equity, inclusion, and belonging internally? What new commitments have been made to address racial equity, inclusion, and belonging internally in the year ahead?**

Our internal Justice, Equity and Universal Access Committee, formed in 2018, worked collaboratively in 2022 to revamp our all-staff training curriculum to focus on interactive trainings highlighting our agency values. The JEUA Committee has increased its frequency of meetings to monthly and is continually evaluating our hiring practices, evaluating Pathways Vermont holidays, and developing supports for BIPOC staff and board members that are responsive to the individual and their work at Pathways Vermont. As part of our all-staff curriculum, Pathways Vermont has been paying for many years for a daily digital publication called "Anti-Racism Daily," a daily email newsletter working to dismantle white supremacy.

In 2023, Pathways Vermont held various all-staff trainings on topics including racial equity, disability justice, environmental justice, and a 'class, classism, & race' training. These trainings and others are part of Pathways' all-staff curriculum, an effort to create and sustain a community and culture that openly investigates bias and seeks to dismantle oppressive ideologies and systems. In the year ahead, the JEUA committee will continue to hold required all-staff trainings and continually evaluate Pathways Vermont values, hiring practices, and training opportunities to reflect our values and commitment to racial equity, inclusion, and belonging.

4. Have you received Federal or State grant funds in the past three years?  Yes  
 No

5. Were the activities funded by these sources successfully completed?  Yes  No  
 N/A

If No, please explain:

**VI. Proposed Low & Moderate Income Beneficiaries**

1. Will the program solely serve a specific group of people? If so, check ONE below:

- Abused Children                       Elderly (62 years +)                       People with AIDS  
 Battered Spouses                       Homeless Persons                       Illiterate Adults  
 People with Severe Disabilities

If this activity/project is designed to serve the population experiencing homelessness through housing or supportive services, is your organization or entity partnered with the Chittenden County Continuum of Care and participating in the Coordinated Entry system for the project:

- Yes                       No                       Not applicable to activity/project

2. a. For your proposed project, please estimate how the Burlington residents will break out into the following income categories during the total grant period. Use the Income Table at <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/2023-HUD-Income-Limits>

Service / Activity	Unduplicated Total # of Burlington HH / Persons to be Served	# Extremely Low-Income (30% median)	# Very Low-Income (50% median)	# Low-Income (80% median)	# Above Income Limits (above 80% median)
Permanent Housing for homeless individuals.	45 HH	45			

b. All CDBG grantees serving limited clientele will be required to use CEDO's **CDBG Beneficiary Self-Certification** form to collect beneficiary data including race, ethnicity, annual income, and family size. Is your organization willing and prepared to add this documentation to the intake process for your CDBG funded program by July 1, 2024?

- Yes                       NO                       Not Serving Limited Clientele

## ***VII. Commitment to Equity, Inclusion and Belonging***

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**1. Who is the project/program designed to benefit? Describe the project/program's target population, citing (if relevant) specific age, gender, income, community/location, race or ethnicity, or other characteristics of the people this program is intended to serve. How do you select and reach your target population?**

Pathways Vermont's Housing First Program serves individuals who have histories of homelessness and/or institutionalization and who have struggled to maintain independent housing. The program has a reputation for successfully serving individuals who are considered "hard to house," meaning they have burned through or are ineligible for assistance through existing resources. This population faces multiple barriers to accessing traditional housing services, including active dependence on alcohol and other substances, frequent mental health distress, and complex histories of trauma. The Housing First program accepts all referrals and serves single adults and adult-headed households through the Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry system. 100% of clients enrolled are literally homeless at the time of intake and therefore meet the criteria for presumed principally low/moderate income persons.

**2. Describe the steps you take to ensure the project/program is accessible, inclusive, addressing racial equity, and culturally appropriate for the target population.**

The Housing First Program provides person-centered services, which are tailored to accommodate each client's situation and needs. This high degree of flexibility means the program can creatively respond to issues regarding accessibility and appropriateness in care. The program is designed to be community-based, meaning that staff typically meet and support program participants in their current environments (often in their homes) vs. requiring that they attend meetings in a clinical or office environment. As such, staff can assertively connect with individuals who have struggled to maintain appointments or are averse to interactions in unfamiliar settings. Additionally, the Housing First Program strives to recruit staff with their own lived experiences with homelessness, mental health, and other life challenges with which program participants may identify. These shared experiences allow staff and program participants to build trusting relationships. The Housing First program accepts all referrals through the Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry system, a process that is intended to eliminate subjectivity and bias as it relates to access to needed services. Pathways Vermont staff participate in the implementation and ongoing review of this process to evaluate its efficacy and improve access for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, as BIPOC folks are overrepresented in the experience of homelessness.

## ***VIII. Budget / Financial Feasibility***

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**1. Budget Narrative: Provide a clear description of what you will do with CDBG's investment in the project/program. How will you spend the money? Give specific details.**

The Housing First Program currently has the capacity to serve 88 individuals in Chittenden County, in part due to current CDBG funding support. The requested funding would sustain this capacity, allowing the program to accept new participants as others graduate and expand eligibility to additional subpopulations.

**2. If you plan to pay for staff with CDBG funding, describe what they do in relation to the specific service(s) / activity(ies) in your Project/Program Design.**

a.

Specific Service / Activity	Position/Title	Work Related to CDBG-Funded Activity	# of Hours per Week spent on this Specific Service / Activity	% of Hours per Week spent on this Specific Service / Activity to be paid with CDBG
Service Coordination	Service Coordinator	1. Service Planning 2. Service coordination 3. Benefits coordination 4. Housing search and retention	20	30%
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b. All CDBG grantees that use CDBG funds for salaries must submit timesheets that capture total time and effort of staff members funded with CDBG. These timesheets must record hours worked on CDBG-funded programs, hours worked on non-CDBG funded programs and the corresponding program name/funding source(s). Timecards must include a narrative for all CDBG and non-CDBG funded activities, and must be signed by the employee and supervisor. Does your organization have the ability to implement a timekeeping system for CDBG funded staff that meets these requirements by July 1, 2024?  Yes  No  Not funding salaries

**3. Program/Project Budget**

Line Item	CDBG Funds	Other	Total
Personnel (Salaries/Fringe)	\$35,000	\$571,898	\$606,898
Client Costs (Security Deposits, Furnishings, Repairs)	\$	\$362,177	\$362,177
Operations (Office rent, utilities, staff mileage, etc.)	\$	\$61,045	\$61,045
Administrative Contribution	\$	\$139,317	\$139,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$1,134,437</b>	<b>\$1,169,437</b>

4. Funding Sources	Program/Project		Agency	
	Current	Projected	Current	Projected
CDBG	30,000.00	35,000.00	\$30,000	\$35,000
State (DMH, DOC and OEO contracts)	1,084,437.40	1,084,437.40	10,064,713.00	\$10,916,007
Federal (HUD, SAMHSA, SSVF)			1,079,483	\$812,919
United Way			20,000	\$20,000
Private (UVM Medical Center)	50,000	50,000	50,000	\$50,000
Program Income			26,466	\$26,466
Other (Fundraising)			305,000	\$305,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,164,437.4</b>	<b>\$1,169,437.4</b>	<b>\$11,575,642</b>	<b>\$12,165,372</b>

5. Of the total program/project cost, what percentage will be financed with CDBG?

$$\frac{\$35,000}{\text{CDBG Funding}} \div \frac{\$1,169,437}{\text{Total Program/Project Costs}} = \frac{2.99\%}{\text{Percentage}}$$

6. Of the total program/project cost, what would be the total cost per person?

$$\frac{\$1,169,437}{\text{Total Program/Project Cost}} \div \frac{88}{\# \text{ Total Proposed Beneficiaries}} = \frac{\$13,289.06}{\text{Cost Per Person}}$$

$$\frac{\$35,000}{\text{Total Amount of CDBG Funding}} \div \frac{88}{\# \text{ Total Proposed CDBG Beneficiaries}} = \frac{\$397.72}{\text{Cost Per Person}}$$

CDBG Investment

7. Why should CDBG resources, as opposed to other sources of funding, be used for this project?

The Housing First program directly contributes to Burlington’s Consolidated Plan by meeting basic needs and increasing access to stable, healthy living situations and resources for vulnerable populations. This addresses Burlington’s stated goals of supporting low-income individuals to retain permanent affordable housing and income supports, both of which have been identified as high-priority needs. While Pathways Vermont and other community providers

are already working towards this shared goal, there remain gaps in service delivery that limit the community's ability to address this need comprehensively. If awarded, CDBG funding would be used to supplement existing state-funded permanent housing services to address homelessness in Burlington. The requested funding would support the Housing First Programs existing infrastructure to serve households who are currently falling through the cracks, for example, homeless individuals struggling with alcohol and other addictions.

**8. Describe your use of community resources, including volunteers. Include any resources not listed in your budget. Will CDBG be used to leverage other resources?**

The Housing First Program relies on the support of the community to achieve its goals. In addition to individual contributions, we rely on in-kind donations to help furnish client apartments. We have been enrolled in ReStore's "Essential Needs" voucher program for the past 12 years to support this endeavor. If awarded, CDBG funds would be used to meet a service match requirement for Shelter + Care vouchers and similar housing subsidies, which require a sponsoring agency to manage a housing voucher for enrolled individuals.

## ***IX. Collaboration/Efficiency***

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**1. Give 1 or 2 examples of key successful collaboration(s) between your program/project and another agency/program/group to address the needs of the people you serve.**

The Housing First Program exists on a continuum of community services that support individuals to prevent and end episodes of homelessness. Program staff regularly participate in stakeholder meetings, including the Local Interagency Team and Continuum of Care, to ensure that the Housing First Program is utilized by individuals with the most pervasive barriers to housing and the most vulnerable. Pathways participates in both Vermont Continuum of Care's HUD-recognized Coordinated Entry system processes and receives referrals through this system.

**2. Do identical or similar community programs exist? How does this program complement or collaborate rather than duplicate services? What makes this program unique?**

Pathways Vermont is the first and only current rural application of Housing First in Vermont. While there are other local agencies providing permanent supportive housing, Pathways is the only organization that utilizes the evidence-based practice of Housing First which immediately ends homelessness by supporting individuals and families to locate independent apartments in the community. Pathways Vermont's Housing First Program participates in the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance's Coordinated Entry process and directly accepts referrals to the program from this coordinated effort. Housing First is unique in that it focuses on the individual's needs and supports those who have "fallen through the cracks" of the system of care.

**3. Provide 1 example of how your agency has become more efficient in achieving your outcomes or managing your project/program.**

Pathways Vermont is a data-driven organization, relying on regular program participant feedback and outcome reporting to evaluate program performance and inform decision-making. In

December 2014 Pathways Vermont converted to a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) format with the intention of streamlining our evaluation efforts through the identification of performance indicators that capture real progress towards agency goals. For Housing First, these indicators include client retention in housing, changes in income, levels of engagement (service hours), client utilization of emergency services and progress towards independent goals.

## **X. Sustainability**

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### **1. How will this project have a long-term benefit to the City of Burlington? If this program/project ends, how will that benefit continue?**

Expanded investment in the Housing First Program is a critical piece of the puzzle in ending homelessness in Burlington. Besides being a major threat to individuals' health and well-being, homelessness has a major impact on the Burlington community. Without a specialized intervention like Housing First, individuals experiencing homelessness have frequent interactions with the police department, emergency rooms, and emergency shelters, meaning these resources carry a disproportionate burden. The Housing First Program stops the cycle of homelessness and reduces clients' reliance on these resources, increasing their capacity to serve their intended purpose. Beyond the immediate impact of ending an individual's episode of homelessness, the Housing First Program has a long-term impact on other domains of life, including health, social connectedness, and financial stability. With the Housing First team's support, clients can regain their independence and become contributing members of the community.

### **2. CDBG funding is intended for new or expanded services. If CDBG funding ends, will the project be able to continue?**

Pathways Vermont has a long-term commitment to the Vermonters it serves and will explore every funding avenue available to ensure continuous services to its participants. If CDBG funding ends, Pathways Vermont will look to utilize and expand upon existing contracts with state agencies, as well as existing and potential grant funding and funding from the private community to continue to serve and sustain its current population of program participants.

### **3. How will you prioritize the proposed project activities if you do not receive the full amount requested?**

If the full request amount is not granted, Pathways Vermont will staff a part-time position on the existing Housing First team that would be able to serve a proportional percentage of the number of additional program participants outlined in this proposal.