The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has awarded approximately $1.8 million in supplemental funding in State Fiscal Year 2020 under the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) to support COVID-19 related costs at seventeen non-profit community organizations across Vermont.

The Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) provides core funding to operate emergency overnight and day shelter; provide essential services to shelter residents; and provide transitional housing where appropriate. HOP COVID 19 Supplemental Phase 1 funds support expanded activities and costs for emergency shelter and services that immediately resulted from, and are directly related to, COVID-19 emergency. Funds support implementation of COVID-19 related requirements and guidelines for hygiene promotion, sanitation, and social distancing guidelines, including the Governor’s “stay home, stay safe” order.

Identified needs include:

- Increased operations and essential service costs to expand or relocate community-based emergency shelter operations, such as
  - Expanded staffing coverage to provide new 24/7 emergency shelter capacity;
  - Extension of the usual season for seasonal emergency shelters;
  - Additional operating costs to reduce capacity/census at current site while maintaining overall emergency shelter capacity (e.g., added sites); or
  - Additional motel costs for emergency shelter projects.

- Additional costs related to staff training and new staffing for emergency shelters to plan/respond to the crisis.

- New/added non-staffing essential services costs to support households in motels paid for by the State or provided as emergency shelter by the agency, including supplies, materials, etc.

- New/added essential services costs related to staff retention and/or expanded staffing onsite or at motels.

A list of awards follows.
COVID-19 HOP Supplemental Phase 1 Awards

ANEW Place $85,821
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless $58,884
Capstone Community Action $30,119
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) $530,687
(project continues through 9/30/2020)
Charter House Coalition $65,177
Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) $81,749
Good Samaritan Haven $156,756
Groundworks Collaborative $333,467
John Graham Housing & Services $60,053
Lamoille Community House $73,774
New Story Center $8,600
Northeast Kingdom Community Action $195,077
Samaritan House $50,526
Spectrum Youth & Family Services $35,500
Springfield Supported Housing $4,725
Upper Valley Haven $94,621
Women’s Freedom Center $17,000