

Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative funds?

These funds are to be used to meet the immediate financial needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness currently due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. These funds are for one-time/short term flexible financial assistance to help households get to safe housing and work toward or achieve their housing goals.

Who is eligible?

Households experiencing literal homelessness as defined by Category 1 of the AHS/HUD definition of homelessness or if they currently meet the AHS /HUD definition of homelessness (Categories 1,2,3 or 4) and experienced literal homelessness (Category 1) between April 1 and June 30 2020.

How do people apply?

The application must be completed by the applicant and their service provider and both must sign the form. The applicant must be participating in Coordinated Entry and the date of their assessment must be on the form. Anything requested for funding must be part of the housing plan. It is always helpful to attach the Housing Plan.

How can this money be used?

Eligible activities include:

- Up to 3 months of rental assistance, and the last month's rent for new housing
If used for short-term rental assistance or a long-term lease, ability to sustain rent ongoing must be a consideration.
- Security deposit, including extra security deposits if required to secure housing
Any costs greater than \$200 should include a price comparison
- Holding fees i.e., a landlord has accepted the tenant, but they are awaiting housing inspection. Funds would hold the apartment at a daily pro-rated rent rate. The tenant must have been accepted by the landlord (no lease signed) but verbal/written agreement (email)
- Back utility or rent payments that prevent access to new housing
- Reducing or eliminating debt to make future rent affordable
- Program fees for recovery housing or other non-traditional housing option
- Offset costs for a host family, directly paid to the host family for a commitment of housing
- Moving costs including furnishings
- Utility deposits or assistance
- Additional food support
- Other activities, so long as they are in the housing plan

Where do I send the application?

The following agencies are Rapid Resolution fund administrators:

- BROC – Covers Bennington AHS District
 - Contact Sandy Bessette sbessette@broc.org; 445-1305
- Capstone – Covers Barre and Morrisville AHS Districts
 - Contact dawn butterfield dbutterfield@capstonevt.org; 477-5124
- CVOEO – Covers Burlington, Middlebury and St. Albans Districts
 - Burlington and Middlebury Districts contact Travis Poulin tpoulin@cvoeo.org 863-6248
 - St. Albans AHS District contact Jess Graff jgraff@cvoeo.org 527-7392
- Homeless Prevention Center – Covers Rutland AHS District
 - Contact Jessica Makela jessica@hpcvt.org; 775-9286 ext. 206
- NEKCA – Covers Newport and St. Johnsbury Districts;
 - Contact Joy Ely jely@nekcvvt.org; 487-4021
- SEVCA - Covers Brattleboro, Springfield and Hartford Districts
 - Contact Amy Downing adowning@sevca.org; 722-4575 ext. 1405
- VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence – Covers statewide
 - Contact Kara Casey kara@vtnetwork.org; 223-1302 ext. 1105

What is the role of the Fund Administrators?

The fund administrators will review the application, verify that the requirements are met, costs are reasonable and issue payment. If needed they will contact the referral agency with questions.

Do applicants have to seek assistance from other programs before applying for Rapid Resolution funds?

No, there is no requirement that households seek assistance to other programs and organizations before requesting Rapid Resolution funds.

Can Households get additional assistance from Rapid Rehousing funds if needed?

Households who exit homelessness with Rapid Resolution funds may be eligible for additional financial assistance if needed to maintain housing stability. For these assists other mainstream resources and benefits should be considered first.

How much money can be requested per household?

Up to \$3,500 can be requested to the fund administrator.

Up to \$5,000 can be requested through the Coordinated Entry partners.

Over \$5,000 must be approved by the State.