



Department for Children and Families
Commissioner's Office
280 State Drive, HC 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-1080
(802) 241-0929 Fax (802) 241-0950
www.dcf.vermont.gov

Summary of Letters of Interest

On May 22, 2023, the Department for Children and Families issued a memo requesting Letters of Interest to prevent and address unsheltered homelessness. The request was interested in funding and/or supporting the following:

1. New community center/day shelter capacity to provide regular daytime access to shelter, services, showers, food, clothing, computers, etc.
2. New emergency shelter capacity, including but not limited to, temporary congregate shelter facilities;
3. Medical respite shelter capacity to support households experiencing homelessness who have subacute medical care needs but no longer require inpatient or emergency care; other specialized shelter capacity to support households who require assistance with daily living or have significant, complex mental health needs;
4. Street outreach services to engage and connect people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with shelter, housing and services;
5. Expansion of transitional and permanent supported housing programs to prevent unsheltered homelessness for individuals exiting mental health or substance use treatment and/or re-entry following incarceration;
6. Planning and coordination for immediate efforts to prevent and address unsheltered homelessness, as well as planning and coordination support to expand and coordinate longer-term emergency shelter needs in communities; and/or
7. Other critical needs related to preventing and addressing unsheltered homelessness during 2023.

The memo was issued prior to the Executive Order (May 26, 2023) and the emergency housing legislation introduced and passed during the veto session (June 20, 2023). The invitation was not a notice of funding, nor was a full application requested.

The Department received 59 letters from various community leaders and organizations. Letters varied significantly from offering support, to ideas requiring additional planning, to projects

with a draft budget, to being ready to quickly implement. A summary of letters of interest is provided below.

Breakdown by District and Statewide:

AHS District	Responses
Barre	10
Bennington	4
Brattleboro	4
Burlington	11
Hartford	5
Middlebury	2
Morrisville	3
Newport	1
Rutland	5
Springfield	1
St. Albans	3
St. Johnsbury	3
Statewide	7

Breakdown by Topic

Some letters of interest proposed efforts across multiple topic areas

Topic	Responses
Outreach	7
Services	9
Day/Overnight Shelter	21
Permanent/Transitional Housing	16
Financial Assistance	2
Other support (camping, storage)	13
Response needs more clarity	6

All the letters received were reviewed by a multi-agency housing team and responded to within 30 days (during the month of June). In some cases, submissions were referred to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development or other Departments within the Agency of Human Services for further consideration and expertise. In many cases, additional follow-up included additional community outreach and collaboration to leverage resources and experience, specifically in communities and regions.

Organizations will work with the state agency that responded to their proposal to determine if a project is feasible and be funded. Projects may be funded through existing programs (Housing Opportunity Grant Program, Vermont Housing Conservation Board) and funding designated for emergency housing from the State Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. The 2024 Budget will begin on July 1, 2023. Once the source of funding is determined, an update on the awarded projects will be shared.

If community organizations would like to be involved with regional efforts, please reach out to your Field Services Director <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/about-us/field-services>.