

**Virtual Public Hearing**  
**HUD Consolidated Plan 2022 Annual Action Plan**  
February 14, 2022

Presenters: Arthur Hamlin, Nathan Cleveland, Ann Kroll, (DHCD); Ron Rupp (VHCB); Sarah Phillips, Ari Kisler (AHS-OEO).

Registrants: Megan Roush, Rachel Batterson, Star Barden, Nate Lantieri, Martina Newell, Ernest Caswell, Katrina James, Paul Martorana, Zac Whidby, Martin Hahn, Cindy Reid, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Julia Connell, Debbie Ingram, Maryellen Griffin, Alek Wolfe.

Arthur Hamlin, Housing Program Coordinator, opened the hearing by asking presenters (staff) and members of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board to introduce themselves, and then briefly explained the State's HUD Consolidated Plan and the three major programs funded by HUD under the Plan. Arthur described Vermont's goals under the Plan which are affordable housing, reducing homelessness, creating jobs, and improving communities.

The purpose of the hearing was to get input from Vermonters about the state's most pressing needs in those areas, and ideas for any programs or priorities they wish the State to consider funding with the Consolidated Plan money and get feedback on the programs funded this year.

Comments

Maryellen Griffin commented about the importance of connecting the goals under the Plan like using affordable housing to reduce homelessness, and the importance of making affordable housing accessible to people with mental illness such as sound-proofing, having separate entrances, and connecting housing providers with social service agencies, and also connecting strong communities with housing by distributing money for housing in "Opportunity Communities to remedy situations like Newport not having a shelter or supportive housing.

Ernest Caswell introduced himself as an agricultural worker and member of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition and commented about advocacy for farm worker housing. Ernest testified to the need to address housing in rural communities and prioritizing agriculture hand in hand with building and repairing homes in rural communities and called attention to resources available from National Rural Housing Coalition and VHCB's study and recommended creating a few permanent committees to work on the issue.

Rachel Batterson commented about the importance of where we build all the housing and hopes that housing will be built in Opportunity Communities. Rachel also urged building "unrestricted" affordable housing that has no eligibility requirements other than being income eligible.

Cindy Reid provided positive feedback on the diversity of projects funded by CDBG and that we need to continue to keep in mind the need for housing with services for older adults.

Hearing adjourned at 4:15 PM.