



Family Supportive Housing

~ State Fiscal Year 2024 Awards Summary ~

The Family Supportive Housing (FSH) program aims to reduce the incidence and duration of family homelessness in Vermont by supporting families with minor children who are homeless to identify and maintain affordable housing through intensive, home-based case management and service coordination. Family Supportive Housing service providers partner with landlords to provide access to housing for families experiencing homelessness. A key component of the program is formal partnerships between Family Supportive Housing providers and local affordable housing agencies. Service coordinators address the root causes which led to the family becoming homeless; encourage positive, non-judgmental, trauma-informed communication and engagement; promote resiliency in parents and children; increase financial empowerment; and help the family remain stably housed over the long-term.

In state fiscal year 2014, the Agency of Human Services (AHS) launched the Family Supportive Housing Program in three initial AHS Districts: Rutland, Burlington and Brattleboro. In subsequent years, the program was expanded to include the St. Johnsbury, Hartford, Bennington and Barre AHS districts. In state fiscal year 2021, AHS expanded the program to the Springfield, Newport and St. Albans AHS Districts as well as increased capacity in the Barre, Bennington, Burlington, Rutland and St. Johnsbury AHS Districts. The SFY21 expansion increased the statewide capacity of the program to serve an additional 110 families statewide bringing overall capacity to 285 families.

In recognition of the success of Family Supportive Housing in helping to rehouse and support families with complex needs experiencing homelessness, an increased legislative appropriation in state fiscal year 2024 is nearly doubling the program and offering increased financial stability.

As of September 1, 2023, the program's per member, per month Medicaid rate increased from the original rate of \$400 to \$505 to account for inflation. This increase provides the financial support to not only meet the inflationary costs associated with the FSH program but also supports the funding stability supports the hiring and retention of seasoned and experienced staff.

The expansion of the FSH program includes adding new Service Coordinator positions in most existing FSH sites and expanding into the Middlebury, Morrisville, and Springfield AHS Districts/local Continua of Care. Contractors are anticipated to be in place on January 1, 2024.

FSH Partner	Current Staff Positions	Current Caseload Min-Max	After Expansion Staff Positions	After Expansion Caseload Min-Max
Winston Prouty Center in Brattleboro	2 positions	24-30	3 positions	36-45
Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) & Howard Center in Burlington	2 positions	24-30	5 positions	60-75
Homeless Prevention Center in Rutland	3 positions	36-45	5 positions	60-75
Upper Valley Haven in Hartford	2 positions	24-30	2 positions	24-30
Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) in St. Johnsbury and Newport	2 positions	24-30	3 positions	36-45
Family Center of Washington County in Barre	3 positions	36-45	5 positions	60-75
Sunrise Family Resource Center in Bennington	2 positions	24-30	3 positions	36-45
Pathways Vermont in St. Albans	2 positions	24-30	3 positions	36-45
Springfield (TBD)		12-15	1 position	12-15
Morrisville (TBD)			1 position	12-15
Middlebury (TBD)			1 position	12-15
TOTALS	18 Positions	216-270	32 Positions	384-480

This expansion will make customized home-based case management and financial empowerment coaching available to all participating families experiencing homelessness in Vermont. This expansion also makes the program now truly statewide. The Family Supportive Housing program is the primary tool to address family homelessness in Vermont.

Family Supportive Housing is administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Department for Children and Families.