

Office Of Economic Opportunity
**Emergency Rental Assistance Program
Housing Stability Services
Grant Report
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025**

The U. S. Treasury made funds available for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to assist eligible households who were otherwise unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department for Children and Families Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) awarded approximately \$14.5 million in federal funding under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program Housing Stability Services (ERAP HSS) to 20 non-profit organizations¹ across Vermont for projects beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) also administered ERAP HSS grants during this period; their subrecipients' results are not included in this report.

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¹ ERAP Housing Stability Services Award Summaries are available at
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/ofo/resources/awards>

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Executive Summary

The U.S. Treasury made funds available for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to assist eligible households who would otherwise be unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The [Department for Children and Families' \(DCF\) Office of Economic Opportunity \(OEO\) awarded approximately \\$14.5 million in federal funding under ERAP Housing Stability Services \(HSS\) to 20 non-profit organizations across Vermont](#) for projects beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025. Activities funded under this grant included housing navigation (finding housing), housing retention (maintaining housing), legal services for housing issues, VERAP application and recertification assistance, landlord-tenant mediation services, landlord outreach and education, and credit repair & money management.

Providers helped households:

- Search and apply for rentals;
- Communicate with landlords;
- Navigate their VERAP portal;
- Mediate tenancy issues;
- Create and review budgets;
- Obtain documentation required for applications (for rentals, food resources, etc.
- Understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants;
- Connect with agency partners (employment services, Reach Up, etc.); and
- Navigate eviction cases, among a myriad of other support services.
- Those with ERAP-funded landlord liaisons were also able to help landlords navigate their VERAP portal, find and apply for unit-repair funds, stay informed of fair housing laws and habitability requirements, and access informal and formal mediation services.

Appendix B provides a list of common challenges faced by households as reported by ERAP HSS providers, and Appendix D provides a list of common challenges and support suggestions that ERAP-funded landlord liaisons heard from landlords. During this grant period, ERAP HSS providers helped 7,568 households, 5,321 of which were homeless when they enrolled. Of these:

- 3,748 received housing navigation services (just under 24% were rehoused),
- 1,427 received housing retention services (over 96% retained housing),
- 311 received credit repair & money management services, and
- 2,174 received initial legal consultation and/or legal representation for eviction cases.

In addition to the 7,568 households noted above, 2,508 households and 102 landlords received VERAP application/recertification assistance. Landlord liaisons provided outreach, education and support to 807 unique landlords.