

COVID-19 Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative
Final Report
July 10, 2020 – June 30, 2022

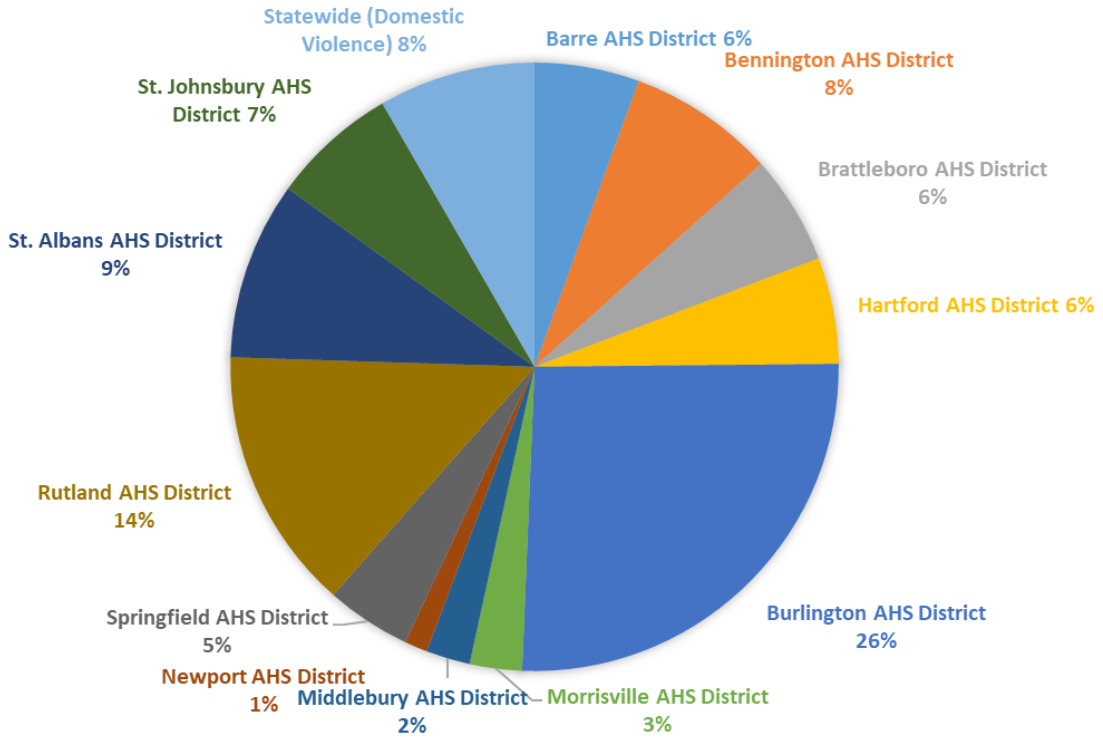
The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) awarded \$5,479,191 through three rounds of the COVID-19 Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative (RRHI) to help local Homeless Continuum of Care partners to reduce homelessness, particularly in motels, by providing one-time/short-term flexible financial assistance to help households exit quickly to safe housing. The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, was the source of funding for the first two rounds of the initiative awarding \$4,729,191 to providers between July 10, 2020 and December 31, 2021. General funds were utilized for the third round of the program, totaling \$750,000 in awards, between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2022.

The Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative focused on meeting the immediate financial need of individuals and families experiencing homelessness due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Nine non-profit agencies administered funds on behalf of their local Continuum of Care(s) and the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence managed funds statewide for survivors. These funds supported a wide array of housing options for eligible households, so long as the funding was used to meet an identified need in the household's individualized housing plan. A uniform application was utilized across the state. Households applied in conjunction with their housing provider with local fund administrators making payments ideally within three day of reviewing complete and eligible applications.

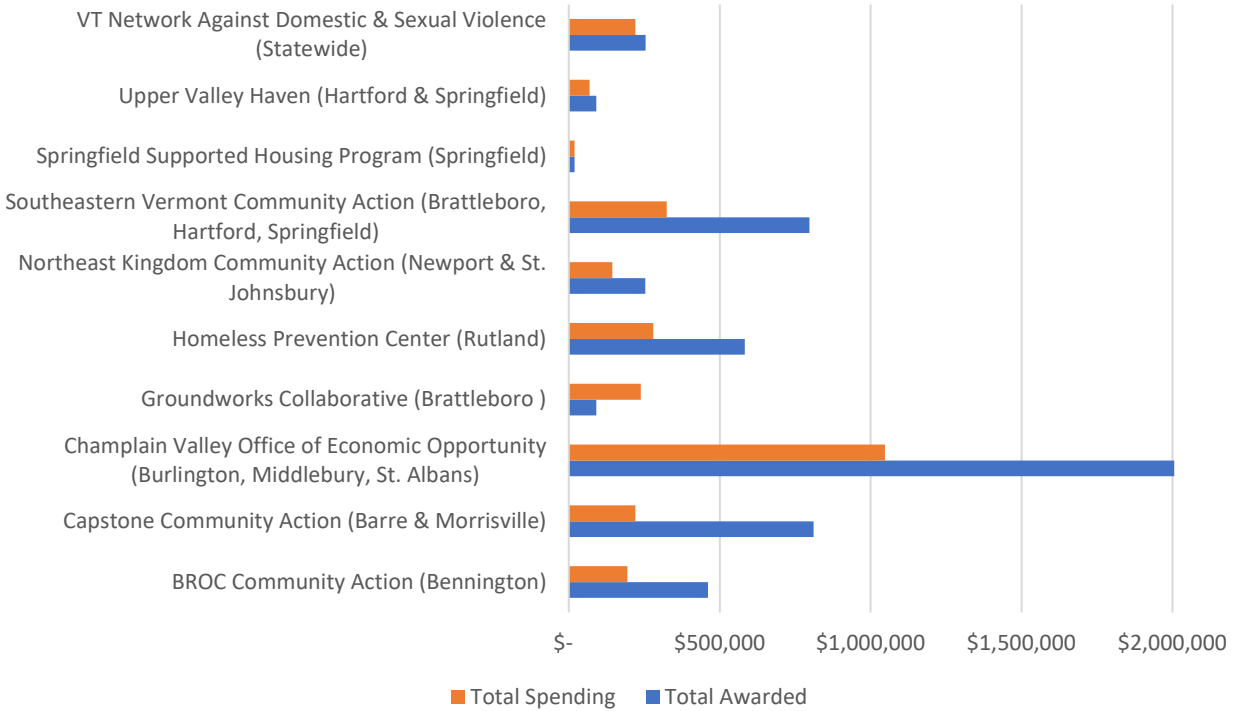
1,151 households were served through this program with 67% (778 households) living in motels at time of referral. Referrals came from traditional housing and homelessness providers as well as from Parent Child Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, Restorative Justice Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Designated Agencies, and DCF Economic Services/Reach Up. 91% of households served (1,047 households) exited to safe housing. The most common safe exits were to rental units with a subsidy (approximately 54%) and rental units without an ongoing housing subsidy (approximately 28%).

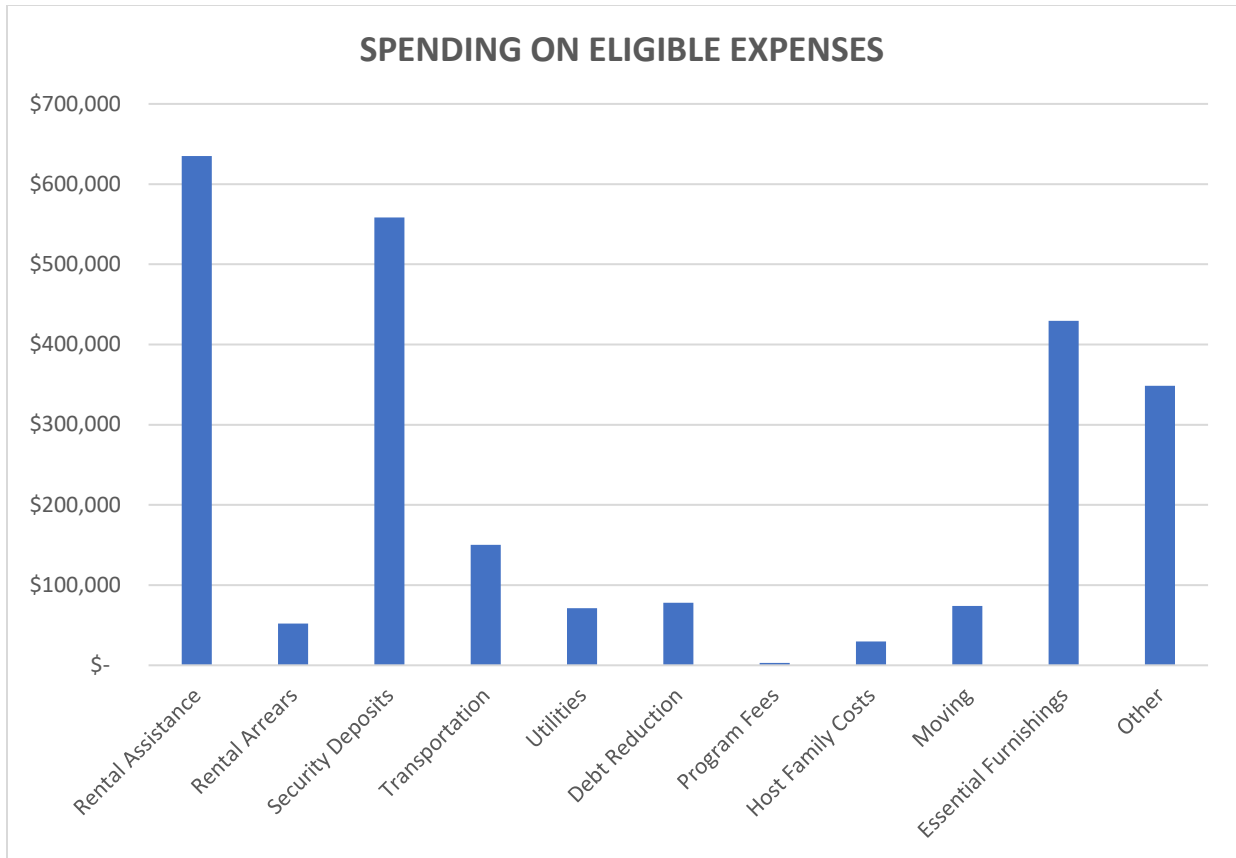
Over \$2.5 million of Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative funds were expended to support these households.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED



REGIONAL AWARDS AND SPENDING





Rapid Resolution is a practice promoted by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness¹ to provide client-centered problem solving and flexible financial assistance to aid quick, safe exits from homelessness. It is a trauma-informed approach which recognizes that being homeless itself is traumatizing and aims to help households exit to safe options while they may still be working on longer-term housing plans. Vermont’s CRF-funded RRHI initiative was the first rapid resolution program at statewide scale and remains a significant tool in aiding households as they exit homelessness in Vermont.

OEO has incorporated lessons learned from the Rapid Resolution Housing Initiatives to flexible client-based financial assistance as a component of the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) as of July 1, 2022².

¹ [Prevention, Diversion, and Rapid Exit | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#)

² FY23 HOP Awards Summary [OEO Award Summaries | Department for Children and Families \(vermont.gov\)](#)