

VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (VCAP)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025







VCAP COVERS  
**100%**  
OF VERMONT CITIES,  
TOWNS & PEOPLES

#### THE VERMONT NEED

**11%**  
63,902 people/  
28,690 households live  
in poverty in Vermont

**29%**  
33,264 Vermont children  
are living in poverty

**6%**  
4,142 Vermonters of  
color are affected by the  
conditions of poverty

**8%**  
10,791 Vermonters  
65 or over are living in  
poverty

#### COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES PROVIDED SERVICES TO

**44,614**  
Vermonters with  
low income

**24,048**  
Vermont  
households

**5,677**  
Vermonters  
of color

**1,180**  
Vermont  
Veterans

**11,506**  
older  
Vermonters

**9,642**  
Vermonters  
with disabilities

**3,264**  
Vermonters  
employed full time

**2,863**  
unhoused  
Vermonters



# Asset Building

"A critical role at our community action organizations is providing a path forward. Asset building by helping people create sustainable sources of income and investments plays a key role. Providing money saving measures like energy savings, returning income taxes, or starting a small business are often an important part of alleviating poverty and empowering Vermonters in need."

TOM DONAHUE

## THE NEED

**22.6%**

of Vermonters have income volatility

**15%**

of Vermont households earn less than \$30,000 annually

**\$78,024**

is the Vermont median income

**2.5%**

of Vermonters are unemployed

## VCAP REACH & IMPACT

**798 individuals received coaching to build assets and increase financial skills**

**115 Vermonters increased their savings**

**1,015 Vermonters enrolled in financial capability classes**

**5,170 Vermonters received tax assistance**

**145 New Americans participated in financial coaching, house parties and classes**

**646 Vermonters participated in micro business and development start up classes**

**149 Vermonters improved their credit score**

**\$5,345,071 in tax refunds were returned to the Vermont economy through the VITA Program with \$2,420,938 received through tax credits**



**"Thank you for helping me achieve my goals by providing me financial assistance in the reinstatement of my license. This will help me get to and from work to allow me to keep making money, and will help me overall save money by opening up more options when shopping for groceries, household items, etc. I truly am grateful for this opportunity and appreciate the work you do. There was no other resource available that could help with this need."**

Family Services participant



# Children & Families

"The promise of Community Action is about changing people's lives, embodying the spirit of hope, improving communities, and making America a better place to live. At the Vermont Community Action Partnership, we care deeply about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Our approach is holistic and family-centered, integrating services, programs, and supports to meet the needs of the whole family. We believe in strengthening protective factors, building resiliency, and increasing parental capacity to create lasting positive change."

JENNA O'FARRELL  
Northeast Kingdom Community Action



## THE NEED

**3,147**

Vermont children from birth to age 4 live in poverty

**11.5%**

of Vermont children of color live in poverty

**1 in 7**

Vermont children face hunger

## VCAP REACH & IMPACT

**768 Vermont children were served through Head Start**

**3,302 home visits were made**

**677 children received dental assessments**

**543 children received physicals**

**319 Vermont families attended parenting classes addressing barriers to stability**

**402 Vermont parents improved family functioning skills**

**638 Vermont children became ready for kindergarten**



**"As a child care provider, I know how vital healthy, balanced meals are for children. Thanks to this program, I can offer fresh fruits, vegetables, and nutritious meals that many families might not otherwise afford. For some children, it's their most reliable source of healthy food. This program doesn't just fill plates; it nourishes children and gives them the strong start they deserve."**

Emily Creighton-Pryer, Rabbit Track Early Learning Academy



# Community Building

**Fair Housing  
VT Tenants  
Mobile Home  
Financial Future Program for  
New Americans  
Community Justice**

"Ultimately, the reason we exist is to support thriving, healthy communities. While each of our agencies may look a little different—offering a unique mix of programs and services – we share the same purpose: to build strong, resilient communities where people have both a voice and a role in shaping the work we do"

JOSHUA DAVIS  
Southeastern Vermont Community Action

## THE NEED

**27.25%**  
of Vermont adults stopped  
formal education at high school

**1,796**  
Vermont youth ages 16–19  
are not working or in school

**22,670**  
Vermonters are uninsured

**14%**  
of Vermonters have poor or  
fair health status

**6%**  
of Vermonters forgo Doctor's  
visits due to the cost

## VCAP REACH & IMPACT

461 housing, service, and municipal providers attended Fair Housing Trainings; 1,104 Vermonters received fair housing rights information; 1,517 Vermonters participated in the Fair Housing Months events

704 New Americans worked with the Financial Futures Programs

345 New Americans were reached through 9 Navigation events

45 New Americans households attended Homebuyer workshops conducted in conjunction with Champlain Housing Trust

977 Vermonters received volunteer training

1,527 individuals avoided evictions

Interpretation services were provided in Nepali, Indi, Lingala, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Pashto, Dari, Bosnian, Kibembe, Kirundi, Russian, Maay-Maay, Lebanese, Somali

519 Vermonters improved their leadership skills through community engagement

354 Vermonters improved self-employment skills to provide for themselves and their families

438 found safety in domestic and sexual assault intervention programs; 117 individuals found shelter at CVOEO's Voices Against Violence Program  
10,660 services were provided

**"Things are going amazing! It's such a big change to be able to prepare and store food for myself, watch TV, have power, and wash my clothes. I was in my cabin for three years straight up on the mountain. Before that, I lived in a tent through both winter and summer, with no amenities, for six years. I've had to literally teach myself how to be part of society again. I cannot put into words the level of thankfulness I feel toward you."**

Family Services participant





# Health & Well-Being

## Food Shelves Hunger Relief

"Living in poverty is deeply connected to poor health outcomes. Community Action is a powerful prescription for healing the roots of the health inequities faced by the low-income Vermonters we serve."

ALISON CALDERARA  
Capstone Community Action

### THE NEED

**79,000**  
Vermonters are food insecure

**15,960**  
Vermont children are food insecure

**10.5%**  
63,000 Vermonters are receiving SNAP benefits

### VCAP REACH & IMPACT

3,665 Vermonters were assisted in applying for SNAP benefits

39,174 meals were made and distributed to Vermonters in need

20,960 boxes/bags of groceries were distributed



**"Migrant households in our community often live in geographic, linguistic, and cultural isolation, which can create barriers to education, wellness, and other public services. Food boxes include a full CSA of local produce and pantry items and work to bridge a gap between migrant farm workers and families and access to culturally preferred food. The number of households receiving these food boxes has grown by 84% over the past few months."**

Feeding Champlain Valley's Healthy Roots Collaborative staff



# Homelessness & Housing Assistance

"Shelter and housing are the most basic of needs for any person or family. How can a community or country be complete or claim to prosper when so many people are homeless? How can we all move forward when so many are left behind? Our strength has got to be measured by our unity, purpose, and care for one another."

PAUL DRAGON  
Champlain Valley Office of  
Economic Opportunity

## THE NEED

**3.2%**  
rental vacancy rate for  
Vermont housing

**1,481**  
unsafe and unsanitary occupied  
Vermont housing units

**164,305**  
renter occupied households  
in Vermont

**35,546**  
Vermont households paid  
more than 50% of their  
income on housing

## VCAP REACH & IMPACT

**VCAP Agencies provided services to the homeless wherever they lay their heads. CVOEO has a Street Outreach Team and is operating a Community Resource Center which serves as a daytime shelter. There are 7 homeless shelters, 2 emergency shelters and 2 extreme cold weather shelters.**

**Community Action provided 1,206 home repairs**

**Community Action Agencies worked to find permanent housing for 808 individuals experiencing homelessness**

**158 Vermonters experiencing homelessness were provided emergency housing**

**1,951 Vermonters were helped to obtain safe and permanent housing**

**865 Vermonters received security deposits and 1,887 Vermonters received rental assistance**



**"The past two years have been shaped by loss, hardship, resilience. When tragedy struck, I lost my husband then our home, and my stability. But when I walked into Capstone, I found something I had lost – hope. With the staff's support, I am rebuilding my life, step by step. My story is one of struggle, but also of the need for meaningful change. Support systems save lives. I share this with gratitude and a deep belief that together, we can do better."**

Capstone Housing participant



# Energy Assistance

## Weatherization Emergency Home Heating Crisis Fuel Warmth

"CAP agencies across the state of Vermont help Vermonters age in place and keep scarce and precious household dollars free for global needs by ensuring their energy costs are as low as possible and their use of associated electricity and heating fuel is as economical and efficient as possible."

WILL EBERLE  
Director of Weatherization and Climate  
Impact, Capstone Community Action

## THE NEED

**18.3%**  
of annual income was spent on  
energy costs by Vermonters  
with low income

**18%**  
of Vermonters suffer  
from asthma

Vermont has some of the oldest  
housing stock in the nation

## VCAP REACH & IMPACT

1,011 units/homes were  
weatherized by Community  
Action Agencies

4,290,018 pounds of CO2 was  
prevented from entering the  
atmosphere annually from the  
households weatherized in 2025

The Warmth Program, is  
sustained entirely by donations.  
\$512,855.32 was raised in the  
last heating season

5,996 Vermonters were served  
through the Crisis fuel Program  
for short term emergency  
assistance

1,531 Vermont households have  
improved energy efficiency and  
energy burden reduction

\$17,272,591 of weatherization  
funding was provided through  
OEO to the Community Action  
Agencies and 3 E Thermal.

A Vermont Weatherization  
Program Training Center was  
opened in the summer of 2025  
and provided training to the  
5 weatherization agencies  
on many disciplines of  
weatherization and energy  
efficiency



**"All your staff who so generously devoted  
their time and skills to weatherize my home,  
who provided amazing and quality service  
that cannot be bought or measured in money  
but is fueled by sincerity and integrity,  
I thank you."**

Weatherization client



## VCAP LEADERSHIP

### BROC Community Action

TOM DONAHUE  
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802-665-1723  
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*Serving Rutland and Bennington Counties*



### Capstone Community Action

ALISON CALDERARA  
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802-479-1053  
20 Gable Place, Barre, VT 05461

*Serving Addison (Granville, Hancock), Washington, Orange, Lamoille, Rutland (Pittsfield) and Windsor (Barnard, Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge) Counties*



### Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

PAUL DRAGON  
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802-863-2771 ext. 740  
PO Box 1603, Burlington, VT 05402

*Serving Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle and Addison Counties except for Granville and Hancock*



### Northeast Kingdom Community Action

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*Serving Orleans, Essex and Caledonia Counties*



### Southeastern Vermont Community Action

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91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158

*Serving Windham and Windsor Counties, except for Barnard, Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon and Stockbridge*



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**"I can't say enough good things about my experience. The crew were kind and considerate, which made them a pleasure to be around"** Weatherization participant



**"When I think about how far my daughter has come, I can't help but feel incredibly grateful for the time she spent at Head Start. It wasn't just childcare - it was a foundation. A place where she not only learned the basics, but where she truly began to shine and thrive."** Head Start parent



**"Being in the safe house has been a life saver for me and my kids. Having no family to turn to and being in an unsafe place not knowing where me and my kids will go if I leave was so scary. Everyone here has been so sweet and loving. My kids adore everyone. They have been helpful with resources for anything we need."**

Safe home resident



