Land Access and Opportunity Board: Shelter for All
12.12.2025, 2025, 2:00PM-3:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Kiah Morris, Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendance:

Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers

Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

Mary Gerisch, NAACP

Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC

Guests/Public: None

Not Present:

Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

Abel Luna, Migrant Justice

Agenda:

Check In: Name, Nominating Organization, Pronouns

Co-design agenda in every meeting:

Community Updates

Review 1st draft of application process for the community resilience hub funding specific to emergency shelters.

Minutes:

Update on states suing HUD for violating fair housing, etc. HUD withdrew the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity). Suit is still proceeding.

The Vermont State Housing Authority Executive Director is sending a request to the legislature asking for funding to get them through January 2025 because they didn't receive HUD funding. The emergency shelter in Bennington for extreme cold weather thought we had optional days to open the shelter. But we were told we are only eligible to stay open for 20 days & if we choose to

do so, the staff from Coalition of the Homeless would have to be paid out of their own budget. So, we might have to limit optional days to extreme cold weather days, -10 below.

Question: What was the nature of the HUD litigation?

Response: It was using NOFO as an example of how HUD is violating federal law in fair housing laws, ADA laws, etc. Also, HUD is cutting funds for permanent housing. I believe it was 30 states, non-profit organizations such as National Coalition for the Homeless that joined this class action.

Any other updates?

Title 9, Title 21, Title 13 is what VRJA is working on right now, a Civil Rights Bill. Vermont Civil Rights Sovereignty and Equal Protection Act of 2026.

Moving on to next Agenda Item

LAOB has had some funds that we are trying to distribute under the Community Resilience Hub. We recognize there is an urgent need. We want to split those funs between emergency shelters & communities doing Community resilience Hub Model.

We want to fund 4 emergency shelters in Vermont at a rate of 50K each. Our goal is to get that money out the door before the beginning of February. We will need folks from Shelter for All Committee to look over applications and provide input.

4, 50k grants for Shelters

3, 50k grants for Community Resilience Hubs

Question: Can you articulate differences, similarities of the grant programs? Is it possible to combine them?

Response:

We want to build rapid response funding for emergency shelters to support those groups timely. Qualifications are based on the state statue and guidelines.

Community Resilience Hubs is a collaboration and work that started with folks most impacted by our most recent floods. They asked the questions, how are we going to be ready for the next disaster? Our collaboration process will be resourcing community emergent projects/programs toward various aid. Longer range project.

We want to be documenting the degree of need. We will be creating an LOI(letter of intent) to justify resources.

Reviewing 1st Draft Application for Emergency Shelter Rapid Response and Community Resilience Hubs.

Question: Do Emergency Shelter Rapid Response applicants have to include each vulnerable and disenfranchised group?

Response: It could be all members of that group or any of those groups.

Suggestion: Create a ‘other’ category for applicants to articulate their ideas on the communities they serve/their intent.

Question: Is there a time requirement?

Response: We could ask for applicants to explain their length of stay, open ended questions, Interview them in person.

Important Questions to note:

What is the duration of time to stay in that facility?

How long is the facility going to open?

What is the capacity for day shelters?

Are emergency shelters specific to the winter season? Or is there a possibility for a longer stretch of time?

Shelter for All Committee would like to be apart of the review process.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00PM

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz