

1 S.245

2 Introduced by Senators Harrison, Clarkson and Hashim

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; permanent supportive housing; grants

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
7 Agency of Human Services to establish a grant program for acquisition of or  
8 acquisition and renovation of permanent supportive housing sites by  
9 municipalities or other entities.

10 An act relating to issuing grants for permanent supportive housing

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 22 is added to read:

13 CHAPTER 22. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

14 § 2201. PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING; GRANTS TO

15 MUNICIPALITIES OR OTHER ENTITIES

16 (a) To the extent funds permit, the Agency of Human Services shall  
17 establish a grant program for municipalities or other entities seeking to acquire  
18 or to acquire and renovate an existing building to serve as permanent  
19 supportive housing for individuals who are chronically unhoused and in need  
20 of support services or individuals who could benefit from permanent

1 supportive housing. Buildings utilized for this purpose shall contain multiple  
2 studio efficiency apartments with a kitchenette, private bathroom, and sleeping  
3 and living space. Renovations shall be conducted in a manner that enhances  
4 energy efficiency. A participating municipality or other entity shall employ or  
5 contract for the on-site services of two individuals serving as a social worker,  
6 case manager, resident advocate, or in another supportive role. The two  
7 individuals employed or under contract with the municipality or other entity  
8 shall be present at the permanent supportive housing site for at least eight  
9 hours daily and may provide services such as support groups, one-on-one  
10 support services, teaching or organizing classes, and connecting residents with  
11 other community resources.

12 (b)(1) The Agency shall solicit proposals for permanent supportive housing  
13 from municipalities or other entities. Eligible proposals shall:

14 (A) identify the existing building to be acquired or acquired and  
15 renovated for permanent supportive housing;

16 (B) provide the anticipated cost of the acquisition or acquisition and  
17 renovation of the permanent supportive housing site;

18 (C) list any funding that the municipality or other entity plans to  
19 contribute to the permanent supportive housing site;

20 (D) describe the accessibility of the proposed location to community  
21 services such as health care providers and public transportation;

1           (E) describe the nature of programming that the two individuals  
2           employed or under contract with the municipality or other entity shall provide  
3           to permanent supportive housing residents;

4           (F) prioritize the training of workers to retrofit older buildings in an  
5           energy-efficient and cost-effective manner that meets clean energy standards;  
6           and

7           (G) provide housing for individuals facing chronic homelessness;  
8           individuals in need of additional support, including those recovering from a  
9           mental health condition or substance use disorder; individuals aging out of  
10           their current housing; or other vulnerable populations.

11           (2) Annually, to the extent funds permit, the Agency shall select from  
12           among the eligible proposals those in which the Secretary determines that the  
13           need for permanent supportive housing is greatest and where the proposed site  
14           or sites best ensures the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

15           (c) As used in this section, “acquire” means to purchase, lease, or obtain by  
16           gift or otherwise an existing building, excluding the construction of a new  
17           building.

18           Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

19           In fiscal year 2025, \$4,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to  
20           the Agency of Human Services for the purpose of providing grants to

- 1     municipalities or other entities for permanent supportive housing pursuant to  
2     33 V.S.A. § 2201.  
3     Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE  
4     This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.