

### 1 Address Vermont's Continuing Long-Term Care Crisis

#### ► RAISE THE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE; ESTABLISH A FAIR RATE SCHEDULE FOR ASSISTED LIVING & OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Vermont has an alarming workforce shortage in long-term care. At Cathedral Square's two licensed assisted-living communities alone, where 90% of the residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their care — and where we have an astounding three- to five-year wait list — **we have had to reduce our assisted-living capacity by 23%, impacting 10 families**, due to the lack of professional caregiving staff.

Despite having increased caregiving pay rates by an average of 26% over the past three years and adding “hero pay” to the mix, we still cannot pay enough to attract and retain these essential staff. This is due to the insufficient Medicaid reimbursement rate — the amount Vermont pays to providers of assisted living, residential care and other home- and community-based providers to care for low-income Vermonters.

#### WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

1. Support the proposed Medicaid-funded ACCS and ERC rate increases developed by the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) over a three- to five-year timeframe;
2. Speed up this timeframe for providers who serve a large percentage of Vermonters on Medicaid; and
3. Establish an ongoing annual increase and periodic rate review of the Medicaid reimbursement rate.

### 2 Increase the Investment in Affordable & Service-Enriched Housing — Both in Existing Housing *AND* in New Construction

#### ► FULLY FUND VHCB & SUPPORT AGE-SPECIFIC HOUSING

Significant investments in affordable housing must continue in order to alleviate Vermont's chronic housing crisis. This must include the creation of new housing units *AND* reinvestments in existing housing to preserve

► *Continued on Back* ►

## CATHEDRAL SQUARE BY THE NUMBERS

(November 2022 Snapshot)



them into the future. As well, this must include new and existing housing specifically for older adults (65+), the fastest growing demographic group in Vermont, who need and desire age-specific housing and services.

Moreover, **greater investment in age-specific, service-enriched housing is part of the solution to the workforce shortages we face** in all sectors of the economy, as it would both meet the housing and service needs of our growing 65+ population and free up existing housing for new homeowners. (For reference, 21% of the 1,200 people currently on Cathedral Square's waitlist for housing are living in a home they own.) Meanwhile, rising Vermont land and home prices continue to build a robust Property Transfer Tax (PTT) revenue source while also exacerbating the housing crisis for low- and moderate-income Vermonters.

**WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

1. Allocate the full statutory PTT share to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board *plus* an additional \$175 million to VHCB and state housing-related agencies in order to create an additional 10,000 units of housing throughout Vermont over the next five years;
2. Support age-specific housing; and
3. Prioritize both the construction of new affordable housing and the reinvestment in existing affordable communities.

### 3 Expand SASH®

#### ► Improve the Health of All Vermonters while Saving Health Care Costs

SASH®, funded primarily funded under the All-Payer Model (APM), is a Vermont-grown, award-winning model of care that has improved the health and well-being of over 12,000 older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities since 2011. Available to Medicare recipients throughout Vermont, SASH efficiently coordinates care, eliminates health care redundancies, and prevents unnecessary medical interventions. SASH has been independently documented to improve the health of participants and simultaneously save Medicare and Medicaid expenditures.

Recognizing the success of SASH for older Vermonters and the growing needs and challenges that Vermonters of all ages face as illuminated by the pandemic, the “SASH for All” pilot, which is currently serving families and individuals of all ages in subsidized housing in the Brattleboro area, should be expanded to serve more Vermonters across the state.

**WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

1. Continue its support of full SASH funding for statewide administration with an annual increase to help offset inflation; and
2. Invest in the continuation and expansion of the “SASH for All” pilot in order to serve people of all ages living in subsidized housing.

*For more information, please contact:*

Molly Dugan, Director of Policy & Strategic Initiatives: [dugan@cathedralsquare.org](mailto:dugan@cathedralsquare.org) | 802-578-6074



[cathedralsquare.org](http://cathedralsquare.org)

412 Farrell St., Suite 100, South Burlington, VT 05403  
802-863-2224 | [info@cathedralsquare.org](mailto:info@cathedralsquare.org)

