



1 PRESERVE AND BUILD ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE

In the 2023 session, the Legislature made a number of important investments in long-term care. However, the crisis in long-term care continues as the availability of care for older Vermonters and those with disabilities is woefully inadequate. In fact, the state has lost 192 assisted living and residential care beds in seven counties since January of 2023. Continuing to address the shortage of long-term care options for Vermonters and their families is essential during the 2024 session.

WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Fully implement the Medicaid rate increases** recommended in the 2023 Home and Community Based Service Provider Rate Study. The highest priority for Cathedral Square is an increase to Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) rates that cover the cost of care for residents that need nursing home level of care;
- **Provide annual rate increases to reimbursement rates** to keep pace with inflation and cover the increasing cost of care; and
- **Implement a regular rate review** and update process.

► *Continued on back* ►

CATHEDRAL SQUARE BY THE NUMBERS

(December 2023 Snapshot)



2 INCREASE FUNDING OF AFFORDABLE AND SERVICE-ENRICHED HOUSING AND REINVEST IN EXISTING AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES

Older adults (65+) are the fastest growing demographic group in Vermont and do not have the housing supply and options they need to live and age safely and healthfully in Vermont. Continued significant investments in affordable housing must continue to alleviate Vermont's chronic housing crisis. This must include creating new housing units, re-investing in existing affordable and service-enriched communities to preserve them into the future, and creating a statewide supportive services fund.

WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Direct the full statutory share** of the Property Transfer Tax to Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.
- **Allocate additional funds** to prioritize both new construction of affordable housing and reinvestment in existing affordable communities and to create a supportive services fund.

3 EXPAND SASH®

SASH® (Support and Services at Home), primarily funded under the All-Payer Model (APM), is a Vermont-grown, award-winning and life-changing program that has improved the health and well-being of over 12,000 older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities since 2011. Recognizing the success of SASH for older Vermonters and the growing needs and challenges faced by Vermonters of all ages to find and retain housing and achieve their full potential, the SASH for All model (all ages) was piloted in the fall of 2022 in the Brattleboro area. Early outcomes are extremely positive and therefore SASH for All should be funded to expand and serve more Vermonters across the state.

WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Continue to support full SASH funding** for statewide administration with an annual increase to help off-set inflation.
- **Invest in the continuation and expansion of the SASH for All pilot** in order to partner with people of all ages living in affordable housing to retain their homes and increase their health and well-being.

For more information on Cathedral Square's priorities, please contact:

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