



1 PRESERVE SASH®

SASH® (Support and Services at Home) is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program that has improved health outcomes and reduced health care costs for Vermonters since 2011. More than 12,000 older Vermonters and individuals with disabilities have benefited from SASH services, resulting in measurable reductions in hospitalizations and emergency visits. Until December 2025, SASH was primarily funded through Vermont's All-Payer Model. Thanks to the Administration and Legislature, funding for 2026—the first “gap year”—is secured. However, the AHEAD (Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design) model, intended as the next funding source, will not start until 2028. This delay creates an additional gap year, making continued funding essential to avoid service disruption.

WE URGE THE ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Allocate SFY 2027 gap funding** to ensure uninterrupted SASH services until AHEAD implementation.

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CATHEDRAL SQUARE BY THE NUMBERS

(January 2026 Snapshot)



2 INCREASE FUNDING OF PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE, SERVICE-ENRICHED HOUSING

The housing crisis continues. Vermont's Housing Needs Assessment projects a shortage of 30,000 homes by 2030 with about half of those (15,000) needed for lower income households. 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. Increasing affordable and appropriate housing options for older adults opens additional housing options for younger adults and families. The [Age Strong Vermont 10-year Plan](#) calls for the creation of additional age-specific homes to help meet both demographic needs.

More investments in affordable housing are needed to alleviate Vermont's chronic housing crisis and workforce shortage.

WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Support full base funding for VHCB** plus an additional \$45 million to prioritize permanently affordable housing.

3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAID IN ASSISTED LIVING/LONG-TERM CARE COMMUNITIES

The long-term care community is a fragile, yet cost-effective, network that works to respond to a robust demand for services and care for older Vermonters and those with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities. The system needs support, predictability, and revenue increases on par with cost-of-living increases. Availability for lower-income persons relying on Medicaid to pay for their care in the long-term care system is extremely limited. This has led to many people "living" at the hospital with no place to go.

WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO:

- **Set a predictable Medicaid base rate increase of 3.5% annually**, plus additional increases as determined by a current rate study that captures the true cost of care.



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plan and learn more



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

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