

CVOEO/Chittenden Community Action  
Report to the CCHA on HOP funding activities by Travis Poulin and Linda Amante  
12.7.2023

CVOEO received funding through the Housing Opportunity Program grant, or HOP, to provide financial assistance and housing case management services to people who were Homeless or At-Risk of Homelessness, per federal definition.

Financial Assistance can include expenses such as payment of a security deposit, back rent, back debt that directly impacts a household's ability to secure new housing or be considered for a housing subsidy, or other reasonable expenses directly related to securing or stabilizing housing.

The HOP grant provides funding for four full-time Housing Advocates at CCA; we currently have one position vacant and are actively trying to fill the fourth position. I should note that the volume of requests for financial assistance, and the volume of people who are unsheltered right now is such that demand for services far outstrips our capacity; CCA has been given permission to hire two additional full time Housing Advocates from separate funding (not HOP), and we are actively trying to fill those positions.

No single agency can handle the work, of course, and COTS, Anew Place, BHA, CHT, CHCB, Pathways, Steps, Spectrum and other service providers are able to work with their respective clients and complete HOP applications for possible financial assistance; those applications are all submitted to Linda Amante, the CCA Associate Director, for her review. Linda is responsible for making sure all applications meet grant compliance, and if approved, we notify the advocates who submitted the application and process payment to the landlord.

- To put the volume of work into perspective, during the last fiscal year, July 2022 – June 2023, CCA Housing Advocates worked with 250 unduplicated households requesting financial assistance. The entire HOP direct service budget was \$865,977.
- The CCA office received requests for financial assistance with housing from 297 households in the first five months of the HOP grant year.
- In the first five months of this grant year, from July 1, 2023, - November 2023, CCA worked 166 unduplicated households requesting financial assistance, and are working with an additional 91 households without housing via housing case management. In total, over 280 households have received financial assistance through HOP this year.
- This HOP fiscal year, CCA was awarded \$1,000,000.00 in HOP direct service funding; year to date, \$626,753.41 HOP has been spent.