

# COVID-19 Response



**Cooking during COVID at LCMHS's Copley House.**

Many Vermonters with serious mental illness also have co-occurring physical health conditions. Keeping residents and staff safe was the top priority in the spring of 2020. Our residential programs acted quickly by:

- Developing screening, cleaning, and safety protocols for staff and clients.
- Educating around handwashing, mask-wearing, and quarantining
- Limiting transportation to one client per car
- Managing increased costs due to cleaning supplies, PPE, and increased activity expenses with clients staying on-site all day
- Supporting clients in making safe choices that balance their right to autonomy with community safety
- Retraining staff from other programs as back-up staff in residential programs

## AGENCIES PROVIDED MORE RESIDENTIAL CARE DURING COVID-19:

**Agencies safely provided 10,949 residential services to 145 clients in March through June 2020, up from 10,921 services to 153 in the previous four months.**

# VCP Network Agencies are a Critical Housing Partner

## RECOVERY DEPENDS ON STABLE HOUSING

With high rents, old housing stock, and a shortage of adequate temporary housing resources, Vermont can be a hard state for people with serious mental illness to successfully maintain housing. Our agencies work closely with housing authorities, landlords, and other service providers to support clients in maintaining housing. In addition, our agencies provide crisis, transitional, and residential care for hundreds of Vermonters every year using [evidence-based practices](#).

"From my legal work in promoting housing stability, CRT programs seem to be one of the largest, if not the largest, providers of housing supports and services in the state. There is no one better placed to support people in maintaining their housing than CRT case managers." –Jill Rudge, Vermont Poverty Law Fellow, 2018-2020

## AGENCIES PROVIDED HOUSING FOR VULNERABLE VERMONTERS

- VCP network agencies operated approximately 176 of the 205 total residential beds available in Vermont's public mental health system
- 246 Vermonters benefited from our residential programs in FY20
- 841 Vermonters accessed crisis bed programs in FY20; agencies operated 36 of 38 adult mental health crisis beds and all 18 youth crisis beds
- Agencies provided care coordination, crisis services, and/or transportation to 586 Vermonters who were "on the street or in a shelter for the homeless" at intake
- Agencies worked with local community partners to find permanent stable housing for Vermonters who were offered temporary housing during COVID-19, including weekly outreach at hotel and motel sites to proactively engage homeless Vermonters with mental health supports and service coordination
- Agency CRT/CSP programs connected clients with housing subsidy funds that are designated for Vermonters with serious mental illness
- VCP partnered with VT Legal Aid to make a staff training available to support housing permanency for Vermonters with mental disabilities.



*Johnson Group Home Halloween Party, October 2019*