

# COVID-19 Response

*The number of staff and shared living providers has dropped during COVID, while the need has increased. DAs and SSAs worked together to ensure health and safety needs were met for people living across the state.*

*Staffing shortages forced the closure of several crisis bed options, forcing network agencies to find creative solutions with little funding. Network agencies worked with local hotels, housing authorities and DAIL to meet the need.*

*Taking a toll on people receiving services, families and staff:  
"I would like to be able to meet up with my friends more during my community time. I would like to get back to a point where we can meet up and do activities with my friends like how it was before COVID."*



*The organizing committee of the Champlain Voices Self-Advocates' successful "Walk, Run, and Roll-athon" fundraiser at the gazebo at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester.*

# Supporting Housing for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

VCP network agencies provided a range of residential support services to about 1500 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, following the principles outlined in the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Act of 1996. 92% of people surveyed report that they like where they live. Residential support models include:

### Living with families with staff supports

- Supervised living, usually in an apartment with periodic staff supports
- Staffed living, usually with a high level of supports including 24-hour staffing
- Shared living, 1-2 people living with a community member who contracts with the DA/SSA, serving a range of support needs
- Group homes, about 20 in the state serving 3-4 individuals per home

Howard Center has a post-secondary education and residential option, the SUCCEED program, which works with families, the community and local colleges to prepare students to live in their own apartments, find fulfilling employment, and establish community connections. Howard Center also offers the innovative housing model, "Safety Connections", which uses technology to provide the least intrusive home supports, and "Avenue 7" transitional housing for young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 who have an intellectual disability or autism and receive Home and Community Based Services.

## IMPACT

The majority of individuals receiving residential services live in a Shared Living Provider arrangement. As the Vermont demographic and housing landscape changes, an initiative is developing with the goal of exploring alternate housing options. VCP network agencies are exploring residential options that preserve an individual's dignity and place in the community, while offering the supports needed to succeed.

## DDSD ANNUAL REPORT 2021:

### Individuals served - Living with 24-hour paid home supports (June 30, 2020)

- 1,396 - Shared Living (1,245 homes)
- 57 - Staffed Living (53 homes)
- 86 - Group Living (20 homes)
- 1,545 - Total

### Individuals served - Living in own home with limited or no paid home supports (June 30, 2020)

- 246 - Supervised Living (less than 24-hour paid HCBS home supports)