

HOME FOR ALL

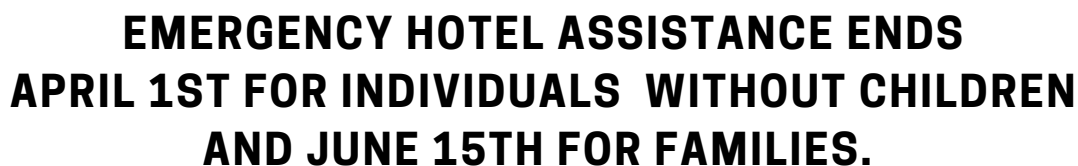
March 2023 Newsletter

EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM ENDING

Since March 2021, **NH Housing** and the five **Community Action Partnership (CAP) Agencies** have administered the **New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP)**. As of February 10, 2023, this program has provided over **\$297 million** in assistance to over **28,000 households** across New Hampshire.

In October 2022, the U.S. Treasury announced that New Hampshire would not receive any additional resources to continue NHERAP beyond December 29, 2022. Shortly thereafter, policymakers and housing advocates mobilized and worked diligently to secure additional resources to ensure households at risk of homelessness and without alternative housing could be stably housed through the winter. As a result, New Hampshire's Executive Council approved up to **\$20 million** in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds to continue to provide time-limited support to households staying in hotels or motels as part of NHERAP through the creation of the **Emergency Housing Program**.

This winter, the Emergency Housing Program provided support to households already in hotels or motels as part of NHERAP, as well as eligible households needing temporary housing that submitted their NHERAP application prior to the pause of the program in October. **With the end of the Emergency Housing Program approaching, social service agencies continue to work diligently to help transition households in hotels or motels into more sustainable or permanent housing.**



EMERGENCY HOTEL ASSISTANCE ENDS APRIL 1ST FOR INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT CHILDREN AND JUNE 15TH FOR FAMILIES.

Households currently residing in hotels or motels should be working with their local CAP agency to secure permanent housing and/or shelter.

Resources Available: All CAP agencies have security deposit, first month's rent, application, and moving cost allowances to assist with this transition.

Strafford County is served by the **Community Action Partnership of Strafford County**.
Rockingham County is served by **Southern New Hampshire Services**.
To find your local NH CAP agency, please click [here](#).

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NH LOCAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

Municipal Local Welfare Administrators across New Hampshire are grateful for the efforts of many, including **NH Housing** and **Community Action Partnerships**. Their action-oriented management and execution of the anomaly of temporary federal assistance for emergency motel housing, is praiseworthy and was life altering and saving for many.

The **New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrators Association** continues to communicate programmatic updates and humanitarian expectation reminders to its members throughout our state. I am confident, municipal local welfare, an increasingly influencing inside voice of social services within our town and city halls, will respond to this challenge by continuing to meet our legal obligations, and the humanitarian intent of those obligations; professionally, collaboratively and innovatively.

In accordance with our association's 2022 approved ethics resolution agreement, **NH Local Welfare Administrators Association**, we ask our assistance provider friends to be mindful of municipality of origins, prior to emergency motel housing assistance provided, and refer appropriately.

Assistance providers should refer to the emergency housing host community if it is determined unreasonable for the person to physically return to the municipality of origin, due to transportation, timing of need for assistance or residency is unclear. We urge people currently in emergency motel housing, paid for by assistance providers, with funding ending, to communicate with their appropriate municipal local welfare offices, to discuss housing options, including emergency housing.

I look forward to municipal local welfare's continued helping collaborations with our partners throughout New Hampshire to assist people in need. No single person, agency or organization can be the everything for everyone in need; however, we can work together, with our unique missions and skills, to assist as a system of one.

Todd Marsh
NHLWAA, President



CELEBRATING OUR SEACOAST LEADERS

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USA TODAY'S MAINE WOMAN OF THE YEAR



USA TODAY's Women of the Year program recognizes women across the country who have made a significant impact in their communities and beyond. This year, **Emily Flinkstrom**, Executive Director of **Fair Tide** and member of Home for All's Leadership Team, was recognized as the **2023 Maine Woman of the Year** for her work advocating for housing accessibility and affordability. **Please join us in congratulating Emily on this remarkable accomplishment!** To read the full article, click [here](#).

2023 NEW HAMPSHIRE IMPACT AWARD

The **New Hampshire Center for Non-Profits** announced their 2023 Nonprofit Impact Award Honorees. This year's recipient of the **New Hampshire Impact Award** is **Kerry Norton**, Executive Director of **Hope on Haven Hill**. The award honors nonprofit employees who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their organization, community, and whose leadership has been integral to significant advancements in New Hampshire. **Congratulations Kerry!**



WORKING TOGETHER, ENDING HOMELESSNESS ON THE SEACOAST IS POSSIBLE.



Cross Roads House would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of their case managers, who continue to successfully match and move families into permanent housing throughout the Seacoast. **Keep up the great work!**

UPDATES & INFORMATION

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APRIL 18TH IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. HERE IS WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE IRS'S VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM:



- VITA is a free tax return preparation program available to individuals and families with annual household incomes up to \$60,000.
- Taxes are prepared by IRS-certified volunteers who assist low-to-moderate-income residents and help them access the greatest amount of refunds to which they are entitled.
- In Rockingham and Strafford County, tax preparation is available virtually, by appointment, and with a certified preparer to guide taxpayers through the process.

For more information, contact Patte Ardizzoni at pardizzoni@snhs.org or visit www.NHtaxhelp.org to schedule an appointment or see the full list of free tax sites in NH.

NEED MORE REASONS TO FILE YOUR RETURN THROUGH VITA?

- VITA services have been a reliable and trusted source for preparing tax returns for over 50 years.
- VITA tax preparers are the **ONLY** tax preparers that have to pass IRS certification exams before they can prepare someone's taxes.
- VITA Programs help tackle the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) participation gap. Why is this important? The EITC helps lift 6 million Americans out of poverty and into a more financially secure foundation each year, yet more than 20% of eligible taxpayers do not claim the EITC.
- VITA tax sites connect community members with an array of services to maximize their refunds and make smart decisions on how to use the money they get back.



CONTINUOUS MEDICAID COVERAGE IS ENDING

It is very important that members complete their redetermination by **March 31, 2023** to prevent losing coverage. Keep an eye out for a yellow letter from DHHS and be sure to follow the instructions outlined in the letter, which may include completing the redetermination and/or providing requested verifications.

Medicaid members can complete their redetermination or provide requested information online through their NH Easy account, by mail, in person, or with the help of an enrollment counselor at an agency below:

- **Goodwin Community Health** – Somersworth, NH
(603) 749-2346 (ext. 2574 or ext. 2556) or enroll@goodwinch.org
- **Families First Health and Support Center** – Portsmouth, NH
(603) 422-8208 (ext. 3188) or enrollment@familiesfirstseacoast.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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HOUSING CHAMPION BILL - SB 145



On February 14th, Home for All submitted a letter to the NH Senate Commerce Committee in support of **SB 145**, the Housing Champion Bill.

Thank you to the Home for All agencies and individual members who signed onto this letter on short notice, including the **Portsmouth Housing Authority, Dover Housing Authority, Town of Exeter, NH Coalition to End Homelessness, Fair Tide, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, HAVEN, and Cross Roads House.**

The **NH Senate voted 21-3 in favor of SB 145!** The bill now heads to Senate Finance.

SENATE BILL 231

Last month, **Cross Roads House's** Executive Director, **Will Arvelo**, testified at the hearing for **SB 231**.

SB 231 establishes a historic housing tax credit; makes appropriations to the DHHS to support emergency shelter programs and increase the per-bed-night reimbursement; and makes appropriations to the NHHFA and the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to support workforce housing and affordable housing.

Thank you Will and Cross Roads House for your continued advocacy for shelter support and affordable housing!



PARTNER NEWS & UPDATES

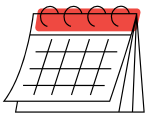
In late-April, **Hope on Haven Hill** will be opening their new **Center for Hope and Wellness** in Rochester. This facility will house their administrative offices, Intensive Outpatient Program, Outpatient Counseling and Case Management, Childcare Program, and Healthcare Providers. The building features expanded programming and childcare spaces, a state-of-the-art demo kitchen, and will centralize HHH operations to one building.

If anyone is interested in tours of the new space and/or a tour of all HHH programs, please reach out to Jessica Parker at jparker@hopeonhavenhill.org.



SAVE THE DATE

HFA 2023 MEETINGS



April 13th 9-11:00am
July 13th 9-11:00am
October 12th 9-11:00am

HAVEN is hosting their 11th annual **Kids Are Our Business Breakfast** at the **Wentworth by the Sea** at 7:45am. This year's focus is on youth mental health and the work **HAVEN** is doing to support vulnerable youth in NH. To learn more, register, or sponsor the event, click [here](#).

**FRI.,
APRIL
14TH**

**SAT.,
MAY
6TH**

**WED.,
MAY
17TH**

**WED.,
JUNE
7TH**

Cross Roads House will be celebrating their **40th anniversary** and hosting their annual gala, **Benefit by the Sea**, at the **Wentworth by the Sea** at 6pm. To learn more, purchase tickets, or sponsor the event, click [here](#).

CAP-SC will be hosting their **annual meeting** at **Flag Hill Winery** in Lee from 8:30-10:30am. More information and registration to come. To follow updates, click [here](#).

Gather will be hosting their **Gala by the Sea** to raise awareness and funds to fight food insecurity on the Seacoast. The gala will take place at **Odiorne State Park** from 5-9:30pm. To learn more, purchase tickets, or sponsor the event, click [here](#).

MARCH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

HAVEN

HAVEN is the largest violence prevention and support services agency in New Hampshire, serving 48 cities and towns in Rockingham and Strafford County. HAVEN serves women, men, children, and all people of marginalized genders and identities affected by domestic and sexual violence.

HAVEN provides the following services: 24-hour confidential crisis and support hotline staffed by trained advocates (603) 994-7233; emergency shelter; domestic violence housing-first program; rapid rehousing and transitional housing programs for survivors of interpersonal violence; 24-hour accompaniment and support at police stations and hospital emergency rooms; accompaniment to courts and child advocacy centers; safety planning; resources and referrals; support groups; community outreach and trainings; and evidence-based K-12 violence prevention programs.

CAMP HOPE AND PATHWAYS MENTORING:

In 2021, HAVEN partnered with Camp HOPE America, the first evidence-based camping and mentoring program to focus on youth impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and trauma.

This summer, HAVEN is excited to bring Camp HOPE and Pathways Mentoring to New Hampshire families at no cost.

Big News!

Camp HOPE and Pathways Mentoring is a free year-round mentoring and summer camp program for kids aged 7-11 in Strafford and Rockingham County who have been impacted by trauma. To learn more click [here](#) or come to their open house.

OPEN HOUSE:

March 28th, 2023 from 5:30-7:30pm
Greenleaf Rec Center
195 Greenleaf Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Join HAVEN for information, pizza and snacks, activities and crafts, and raffles and prizes.

All are welcome! Whether it's kids, parents, caregivers, community partners, and/or interested volunteers.



CAMP HOPE 
& Pathways Mentoring 
BUILDING KINSHIP AND HOPE

COMING 2023

RSVP to pathways@havennh.org