

Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program

Assistance offered to homeowners having trouble paying
Property taxes as a result of complications relating to COVID 19

Dear Sharon property owners:

On Monday, January 24, 2022, Governor Scott announced a new program the: **Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP)**, which will help Vermont homeowners facing pandemic hardships. The program will be managed by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) and is now accepting applications. The program, funded by \$50 million from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will provide grants up to \$30,000 per household towards overdue mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and property association charges. VHFA anticipates that the program will run for multiple years to help reduce the long-term risk of foreclosure and home loss due to the pandemic.

The Homeowner Assistance Program is available to any Vermont homeowner meeting the eligibility criteria and is not limited to VHFA mortgage borrowers. The program is meant to help homeowners pay down expenses on their primary residence as a result of hardship related to the coronavirus pandemic after January 21, 2020.

Because this funding is a one time only grant the VHFA highly recommends homeowners talk to a HUD approved housing counselor before applying. The contact for Windsor county is Jeremy Paquette at the Windham and Windsor Housing Trust:

jpquette@homemattershere.org

Your contact within the Sharon Town Offices is Deb Jones (802) 763-8268 ext: 8

financemgr@sharonvt.net

For a more complete description of this grant program visit:

vermonthap.vhfa.org

There you will find a Prescreening Questionnaire, FAQ's, more resources provided and a "map" of the steps required: from preapplication to disbursement of funds.