

\* Draft \*  
**Consolidated Plan Public Hearing**  
January 30, 2017

A public hearing was convened at 2:30 PM on January 30, 2017 to hear citizens' views about the housing, public services, community development, and economic development needs of the state; listen to any ideas or proposals for activities/priorities the state should consider for the period covered by the 2017 Action Plan, and receive comments on the state's performance under this year's (2016) Action Plan; and to receive comments on the draft Update to the state's 2012 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Those present introduced themselves, and members of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Group who stayed for the hearing re-introduced themselves. Arthur Hamlin, DHCD Housing Program Coordinator distributed a one-page summary of the Consolidated Plan and the AI and the Executive Summary of the 2016 Plan and briefly reviewed the goals set out in the Plan.

Dale Azaria, DHCD General Counsel, explained the requirements for the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. One of the requirements of receiving CDBG funds from HUD is that the state and any sub-grantees are required to "affirmatively further fair housing" by analyzing impediments to fair housing, coming up with strategies to overcome them, and keeping track of how the state does. This analysis has to be updated every three to five years. DHCD used a consultant in the past but decided to update the AI in-house with a limited budget this time. The update includes new lists of impediments and strategies and actions to address them. This is what is being presented in draft form for comment.

One person testified at the hearing.

Ari Kisler from the Vermont Coalition for Runaway and Homeless Youth testified that their organization serves young people up to age 24. They would like to see youth have more of a voice in the community. Youth tend to be discriminated in housing due to their age, but also in the other protected categories. She wasn't sure if their organization gets funding from any of the sources covered in the Consolidated Plan. Emily Higgins from the Office of Economic Opportunity explained that they are a HOP grant funding recipient. HOP does include ESG funding, but she didn't believe they received HUD funding this year. Ari explained that their main funder is aligning more with HUD's definition, so this is why they are interested. Many of their clients have trouble finding decent affordable housing. Their clients often face discrimination because of presence of minor children and receipt of public assistance. They provide some rent assistance and have seen landlords pull back when they are involved.

Dale invited Ari to take copies of the other AI documents and to submit written comments if interested.

The hearing adjourned at 3:00 p.m.