



Interagency Council on Homelessness

February 27, 2025

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Interagency Council on Homelessness

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Vote to approve minutes from January 30, 2025 meeting
- Opening Remarks and Department of Housing Updates
- Presentation of FY26 State Funding Proposals for Homelessness
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Interagency Council on Homelessness

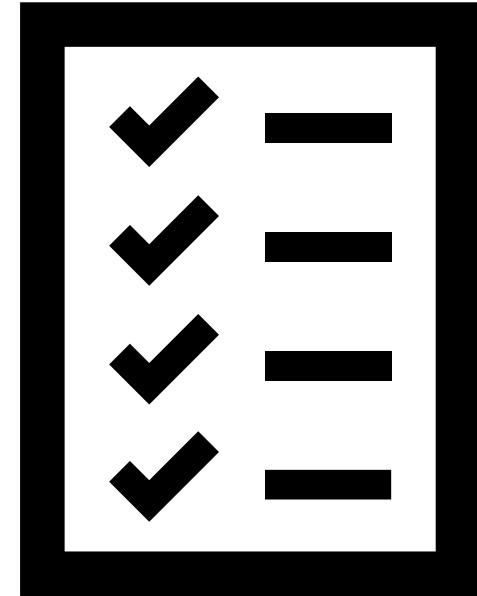
Quorum

1. Chief of Office of Housing & Community Development
2. Director of the Department of Administration
3. Chair of the Housing Resources Commission
4. Director of Department of Human Services
5. Director of the Department of Health
6. Director of Children, Youth & Families
7. Director of Healthy Aging
8. Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
9. Director of Department Of Labor & Training
10. Director of Corrections
11. Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
12. Director of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation
13. Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
14. Representative from the Rhode Office of Veterans Services
15. Office of the Public Defender
16. Medicaid Director with the Department of Human Services
17. Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
18. Office of the Lieutenant Governor
19. Ex-officio member from the Providence Veterans Administration
20. Ex-officio member who shall be from the interagency council on homeless advisory council (see 40-17-5, Advisory council established)

Interagency Council on Homelessness

Approval of Minutes – January 30, 2025

- Review of January 30, 2025
Draft Minutes
- Approval of Minutes



Welcome & Opening Remarks

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Department of Housing Updates

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100+ Additional Shelter Capacity Opened

1

ECHO Village, managed by House of Hope, opened in Providence, with capacity for 45 individuals

2

Older Adult Shelter, managed by Amos House, opened in Providence, with capacity for 40 individuals

3

Woonsocket Clinton Street opened, with capacity for 20 individuals.



Winter hub utilization and new capacity

Winter Hub Update

Current Winter Hub Capacity:

Hub	Capacity
West Warwick	25 spaces
Woonsocket	20 spaces
Westerly	15 spaces

New Winter Hubs Being Supported

Additional funds were identified to put toward winter hub capacity. The solicitation opened on January 21 and has now been extended to March 7. To date, two new awards have been made:

- 1. City of Providence:** Located at Mathewson Street Church, the hub will have capacity for 45 individuals
- 2. East Providence:** Located at Rob Rock Senior Center, 610 Waterman Avenue and in partnership with East Bay Community Action Program, the hub will have 15 beds.

New utilization dashboard available.

This dashboard is a high-level shelter capacity tracking tool that depicts shelter bed utilization for the prior night as well as the total number of beds in the system. This dashboard is not intended to be a placement tool for individuals experiencing homelessness who are in need of services. If you are currently experiencing homelessness, please contact the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness using the link below. The information on the dashboard will be used to help the State make system-wide improvements. All information used to update this dashboard is provided to the State by the Coalition and shelter providers.

Notes

**Includes state-funded shelters and certain non-state-funded shelters that are currently known to the Department. Domestic violence shelter utilization is not displayed for confidentiality reasons.*

This dashboard does not include information on emergency winter hubs, as these locations operate differently than traditional shelters and operations may be weather dependent. For information on the winter emergency hubs, visit [here](#).

The Department of Housing updates the dashboard by 2 PM Monday through Friday. For questions, contact the Department of Housing [here](#).

[Are you currently experiencing homelessness? Click here.](#)

Homelessness Data Dashboard

Last Updated 2/26/25



Rhode Island
Department of Housing

Non-family shelter bed utilization night of 2/25/25			
Project ID	Type of Shelter	Shelter Beds	Last Night Utilization Rate
20A	Individual Shelter	19	100.0%
21A	Individual Shelter	17	100.0%
23A	Individual Shelter	41	75.6%
24A	Medical Respite	30	96.7%
25A	Individual Shelter	22	100.0%
26A	Individual Shelter	22	90.9%
27A	Individual Shelter	45	53.3%
2A	Women's Shelter	41	97.6%

Family shelter units utilization night of 2/25/25		
Project ID	Family Units	Last Night Unit Utilization
10A	24	87.5%
11A	15	93.3%
18A	15	86.7%
19A	5	60.0%
22A	9	100.0%
3A	15	73.3%
7A	59	98.2%
NS.2	11	81.8%

Type of Shelter
All

Family shelter units not utilized last night
15

Non-family shelter beds not utilized last night
81

Total shelter beds*
1514

<https://housing.ri.gov/data-reports/homelessness-data-dashboard>

FY26 State Funding Proposals for Homelessness

The FY26 budget proposes new recurring funding for homelessness.

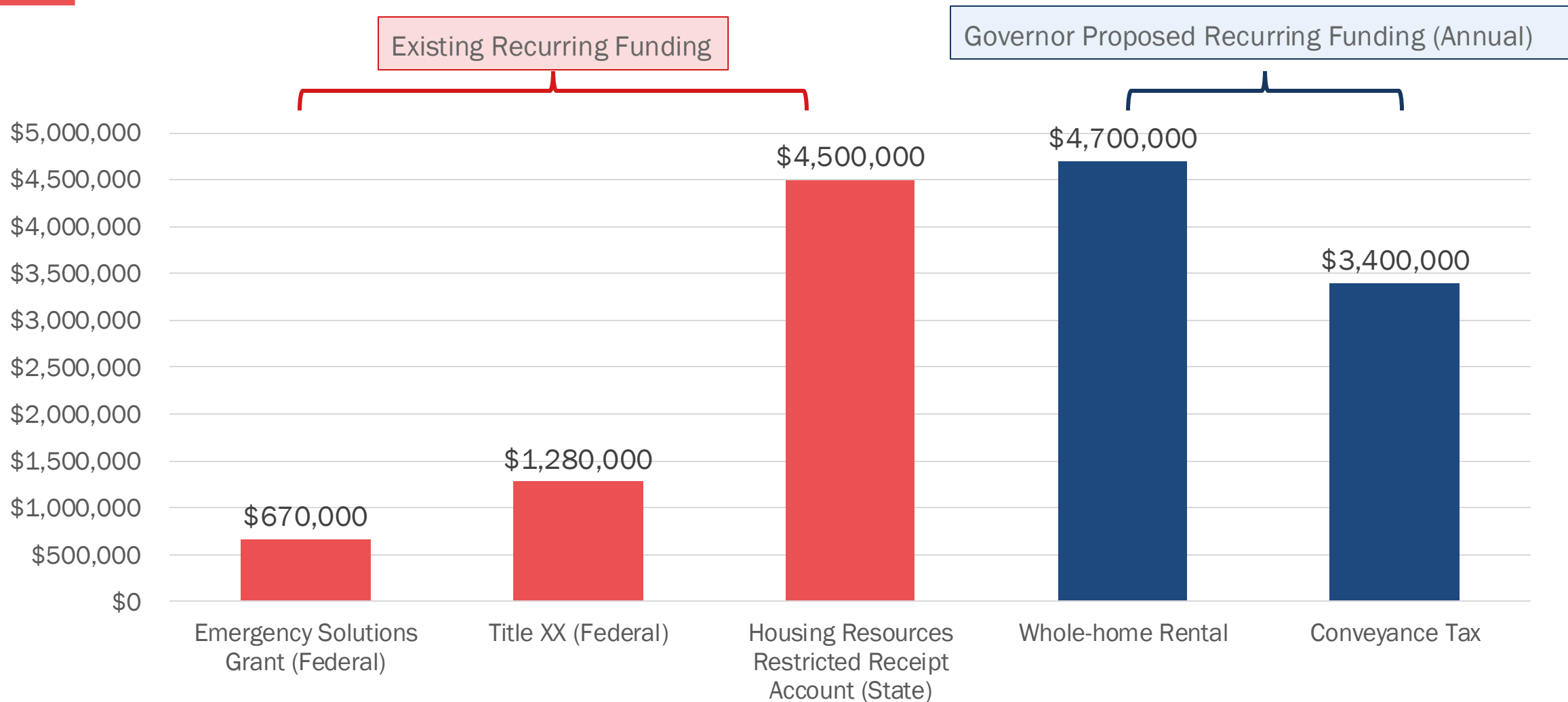
As the state spends down one-time State Fiscal Recovery Funds for homelessness assistance, the Governor proposes two new sustainable funding sources to support people experiencing housing instability.

Whole-Home Rental Tax – The 5.0 percent state hotel tax currently applies to hotels, motels, and partial home short-term rentals (i.e., renting a room in a home) – but not whole-home short-term rentals. The Governor again proposes eliminating this exception and applying the 5.0 percent tax to whole-home short-term rentals effective January 1, 2026, with proceeds allocated to homelessness services.

Real Estate Conveyance Tax – The State’s real estate conveyance tax has two tiers; properties over \$800K are taxed at 0.92 percent, with revenues supporting the Housing Production Fund. The Governor recommends increasing the conveyance tax on properties over \$800K to 1.25 percent – the same rate as in Connecticut – with additional revenues going to the Housing Resources and Homelessness Fund.

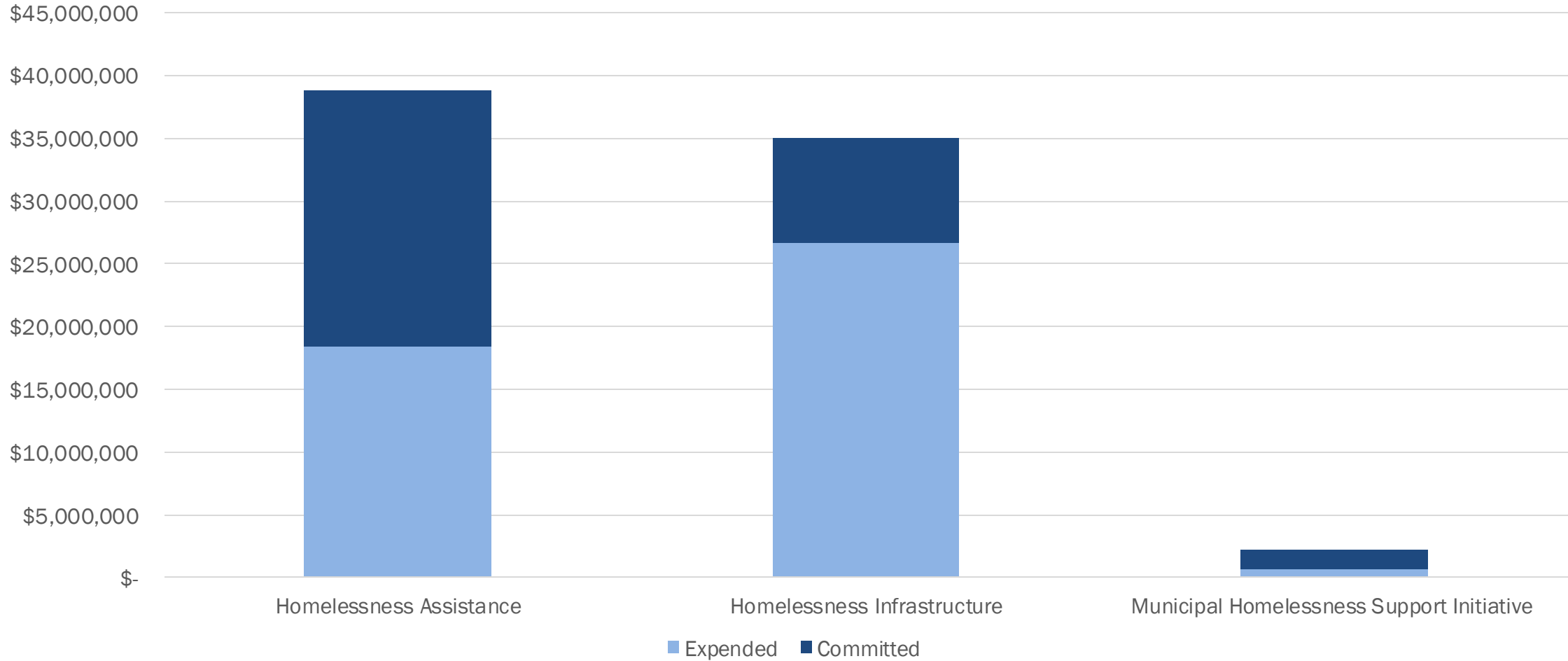
Revenue Source	FY 2026
Existing Sources	
Recurring Sources (HRC, ESG, Title XX)	\$6.3M
Housing Resources/Homelessness Restricted Receipt (one time)	\$5.0M
FY 2026 – New Funding	
Whole Home Short Term Rental – 5% (Total tax: 13%)	\$2.1M
Real Estate Conveyance Tax – to 1.25% for properties over \$800K	\$2.3M
Total Existing & New Sources	\$15.7M

The Governor's FY26 Budget proposes two dedicated funding streams for homelessness supports.

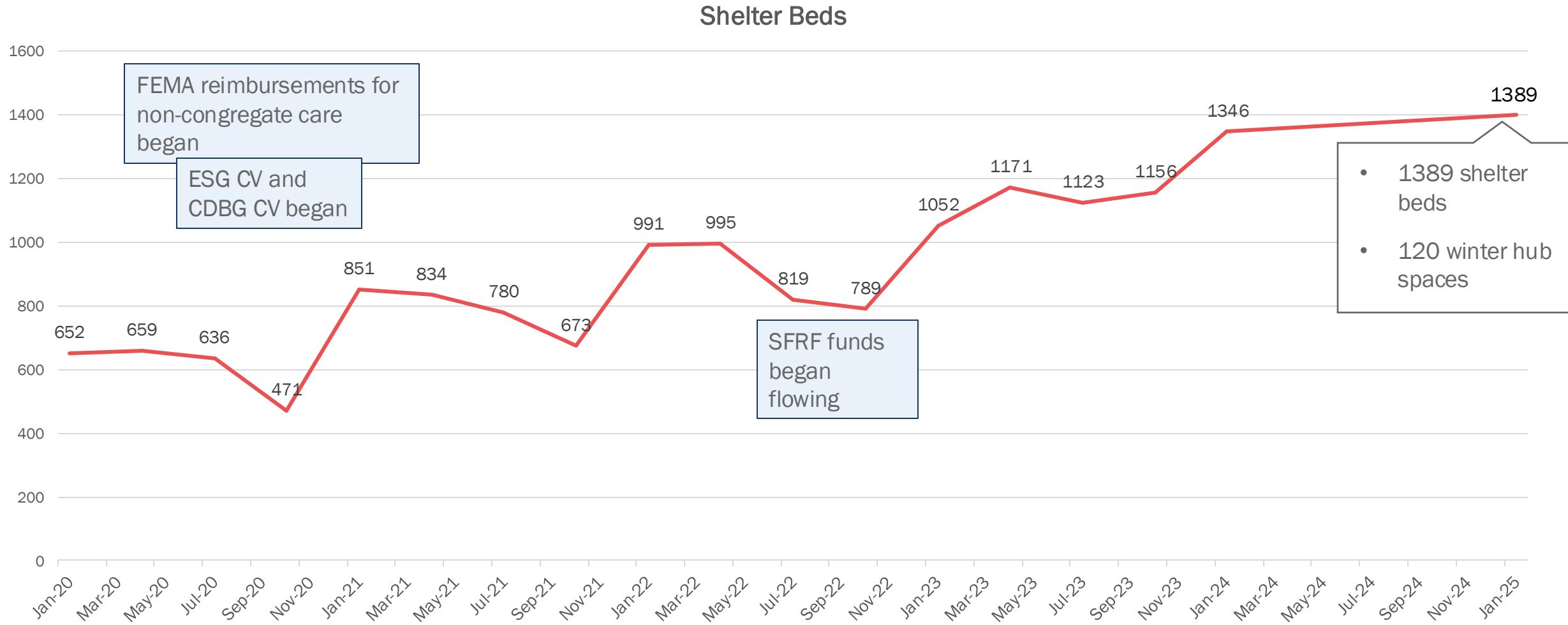


These new funding streams are vital, as one-time federal funds for homelessness will be expended before FY26

SFRF Homelessness Funding



Under the McKee Administration, the state has expanded shelter capacity significantly.



One-time pandemic funds have also enabled the Department to use and purchase state property to address homelessness, with a focus on families.

Zambarano Campus

- **Shelter Type:** Family
- **Capacity:** 30
- **Service Provider:** Tri-County CAP

Kingston Family Shelter

- **Shelter Type:** Family
- **Capacity:** 30
- **Service Provider:** WARM

Hartford Avenue

- **Shelter Type:** Couples
- **Capacity:** 40
- **Service Provider:** Crossroads RI




100 Randall (Former Charlesgate Nursing Home)

- **Shelter Type:** Families, Older Adults (not yet open)
- **Capacity:** 120 rooms, which can accommodate more than 200 Rhode Islanders.
- **Service Provider:** Amos House
- **Other Tenants:** Currently, CCA runs an Acute Stabilization Unit and the YWCA runs a veteran's program. The YWCA is anticipated to move in the coming months, allowing for the older adult shelter expansion.
- **Building Maintenance:**
 - The Department has completed an RFP for a long-term property manager and is in the process of finalizing that vendor and issuing a contract.
 - This vendor, in partnership with the Department, will be addressing the building systems issues that have arisen. We intend to use SFRF (Homelessness Infrastructure) to address the long-term maintenance and capital improvements for the building.
- **Long term vision:** Preserve the building's use for supporting priority populations aligned to state goals. There is interest from other agencies to co-locate services and use the building.

Now, new recurring funds are needed. The first proposal is to close the tax loophole on whole-home rentals. This would lead to \$4.7M annually.




Creates a steady funding stream to address housing stability and homelessness by closing a tax loophole.

- Current Hotel Tax Breakdown:

	Whole Home Short-term Rentals	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1%	8%
	Traditional Hotel Rooms	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1% State Hotel Tax: 5%	13%
	Partial Home Short-term Rentals	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1% State Hotel Tax: 5%	13%



- Governor's Proposal:

	Whole Home Short-term Rentals	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1% State Hotel Tax: 5%	13%
	Traditional Hotel Rooms	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1% State Hotel Tax: 5%	13%
	Partial Home Short-term Rentals	State Sales Tax: 7% Local Hotel Tax: 1% State Hotel Tax: 5%	13%

The second proposal is to increase the conveyance tax on residential properties sold for over \$800,000. This would lead to \$3.4M annually for homelessness.

Conveyance Tax Proposal

- **Real Estate Conveyance Tax** – The State’s real estate conveyance tax has two tiers; properties over \$800K are taxed at 0.92 percent, with revenues supporting the Housing Production Fund. The Governor recommends increasing the conveyance tax on properties over \$800K to 1.25 percent – the same rate as in Connecticut – with additional revenues going to the Housing Resources and Homelessness Fund.



Upcoming testimony opportunities:

- House Finance Committee Hearing – February 27, 2025 at the Rise (approximately 4pm)

Discussion



Next Meeting:

- March 25, 2025 - 8:30 am
 - Location -- TBD

Future Meetings:

- April 24, 2025, Thursday – 8:30 am
 - Location – TBD

Public Discussion



Adjournment

