

2026 Annual Awards for Special Achievement

HOUSINGDATA.ORG

Accessible & Reliable Affordable Housing Data for Vermont

Vermont Housing Finance Agency
3-31-2026

Contact: Krista Malaney, Public Relations Manager
at kmalaney@vhfa.org



SUMMARY

Finding reliable housing data often requires endless web searches and inconsistent sources. HousingData.org solves this. Developed by VHFA in 2003 and upgraded in 2025, this free, public data hub is a one-stop source for high-quality, state-specific affordable housing data and tools. Newly enhanced Community Data Profiles, a Housing Resource Toolbox, and a statewide directory of affordable rental housing put actionable information in the hands of the people shaping Vermont's housing solutions.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1974, Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) has worked to provide affordable, safe, and decent housing opportunities for low- and middle-income Vermonters. The Agency has achieved this through community development financing programs and homebuyer assistance programs resulting in more than 10,000 rental homes and 31,000 homes purchased by first generation and first-time homebuyers statewide.

Central to the Agency's reputation and success is a strong commitment to data-driven strategic planning and decision-making. VHFA's effectiveness is rooted in data-driven planning and decision-making. The Agency uses timely, unbiased information to define housing challenges, track key indicators, and measure progress toward statewide housing goals. Over decades, this commitment has produced a robust body of quantitative and qualitative data that informs both VHFA's work and the strategies of affordable housing partners across Vermont.

Created and maintained by VHFA, HousingData.org is a reliable and trusted data hub, built to support informed decision-making that improves and sustains the future of affordable housing in Vermont. For this reason, it is one of VHFA's special achievements.

THE PROGRESSION OF HOUSINGDATA.ORG

In 2003, VHFA developed and launched HousingData.org as Vermont's first and only one-stop source for housing data. Over 20+ years of continuous improvement, the site has become the primary resource used by housing advocates, state policy makers, and local media in Vermont, thus heavily informing state and local affordable housing policy and development.

In 2025, VHFA completed the most comprehensive update of HousingData.org since its launch. This project combined a back-end upgrade of website infrastructure with new front-end features for the public at large. Specific improvements achieved with the 2025 upgrade of HousingData.org include:

- **Clear and efficient navigation** boost efficiency and user satisfaction, including an expanded site search and page tagging.
- **Improved accessibility** for all community profile dashboards for increased clarity and web adaptability.
- **A sustainable data architecture** that improves storage, analysis, and ongoing updates—reducing risk of human error and increasing efficiency for staff.
- **New data indicators that align with statewide housing targets**, informed by VHFA's Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Targets.
- **Expanded resource areas** for practitioners and the public, including Housing Topics and a Vermont-specific Housing Glossary.

INNOVATION MEETS MISSION

The 2025 upgrade was more than a technical refresh—it modernized HousingData.org into a more durable and usable platform for statewide decision-making. The project required back-end conversion of the website’s content management system, Drupal. VHFA took the opportunity to fully assess and streamline the depth and breadth of offerings on the HousingData.org to ensure the platform is uncomplicated and intuitive for diverse user groups to navigate. This conversion was paired with the formalization of a database architecture system that reduces the likelihood of human error when publishing large datasets and increases internal staff access to clean, usable indicators related to VHFA’s priorities.

VHFA convened a cross-departmental team comprised of VHFA’s Research Coordinator, Web Developer, Special Projects Coordinator, and Agaric (external web developer), to complete a comprehensive assessment and redesign. Redundant pages and content were consolidated or removed, menu navigation and link structure was simplified, and all existing pages were assigned tags based on their pertinent content. From this, the conversion team was able to build a site-wide search function to pull content based on the newly created meta-data for each site page. This improved the site navigation and overall user experience.

In addition to the site-wide improvements, content upgrades across the platform’s three focus areas were extensive:

1. **Community Data Profiles**

A hub of Vermont housing market information available at town, county, and state levels.

- Created a new **Home Building** section to provide insight into current and historic changes to state housing stock, combining existing indicators on the site with new robust analysis.
- Built the **Vermont Housing Development Dashboard**, in partnership with the Vermont Dept. of Housing & Community Development, to track progress toward statewide housing needs.
- Established the **Affordable Rental Housing Development Pipeline** page to illustrate the reconciled impacts of all state-funded sources in Vermont since 2020.
- Added new demographic indicators, including population change components and population pyramids with projections through 2050, derived for the Housing Needs Assessment and highlighting future impacts of aging and migration.

2. **Housing Resource Toolbox**

Strategies and research to support affordable housing advocacy and development for users at all experience levels.

- Created the **Vermont Housing Glossary**, defining common and esoteric housing terms with Vermont-specific context.
- Added a **Publications** area to host all previous housing research papers published by VHFA, with opportunity to co-host other research conducted by state and local partners.

3. **Directory of Affordable Rental Housing**

A statewide listing of rental apartments built or rehabilitated using state or federal affordable

housing funding.

- Improved the search function within this directory to make information about publicly funded housing developments at town and county levels easier to access for local housing advocates, including the creation of a map search feature.
- VHFA's improved database architecture allowed records to be clarified and names were modernized to reflect the history of reinvestment in older rental properties.

ACCESSIBLE, DEPENDABLE, INVALUABLE

With the 2025 upgrades in place, HousingData.org offers the public 24/7 access to comprehensive Vermont-specific housing data—reducing barriers for communities that cannot afford proprietary market research or dedicate staff time to assembling trustworthy information from fragmented sources. The result is a public resource that strengthens local capacity and supports consistent, informed action.

Since the 2025 upgrade, user engagement and retention have increased significantly, with **more than 222,000 new users and 565,000+ views over the past year**. HousingData.org is also routinely referenced by media and publications as a leading source of Vermont housing and community data.

The relaunch coincided with a major Vermont Legislature directive requiring communities to quantify local housing needs and create town-level housing targets aligned with statewide goals. This mandate—reinforced by conclusions of the **2025 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment**—indicates that **24,000–36,000 homes** must be built by 2030 to close existing gaps in owned and rented affordable housing. Vermont's rural geography and limited local administrative capacity make this work especially challenging across 240 towns and 15+ regional planning commissions. HousingData.org provides an essential foundation for this directive by giving communities a credible, consistent, and accessible base of information.

The site also proved uniquely valuable during the 2025 federal government shutdown, when key national sources—including the U.S. Census Bureau and HUD—became temporarily inaccessible. HousingData.org remained available and provided uninterrupted access to critical statewide indicators, supporting continued work by state officials, policymakers, housing agencies, and practitioners.

As HousingData.org continues to demonstrate statewide value, VHFA will utilize its expanded tools to evaluate program impact across relevant market segments and adjust strategies to increase housing access. The platform will inform VHFA's upcoming Strategic Plan, the revised Qualified Allocation Plan that sets priorities for awarding federal and state housing tax credits for affordable rental and for-sale housing, and VHFA's overall advocacy for housing priorities focused on low- and moderate-income Vermonters. VHFA will also continue to share housing data highlights through VHFA news and social media channels.

HousingData.org remains rooted in rigorous quantitative and state-specific qualitative data that moves Vermont's housing network forward. In a field where trustworthy information is essential, VHFA believes HousingData.org is not only deeply valuable to Vermont—but also a replicable model for other agencies committed to data-informed solutions that expand affordable housing.

IMAGE 1:

Housing.Data.org Engagement & Retention 2025 to 2026

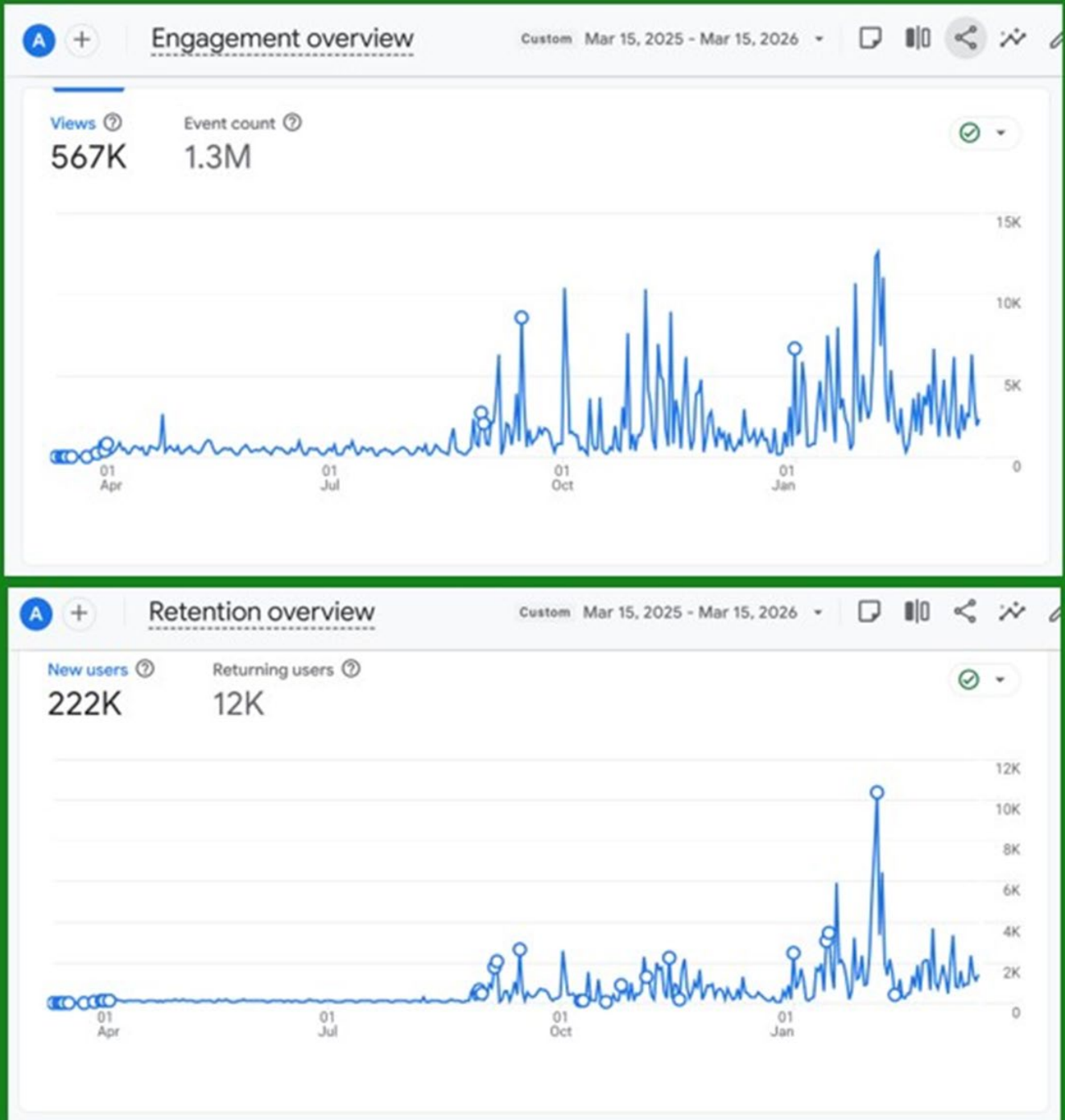


IMAGE 2:

Publications & Media Referencing HousingData.Org



IMAGE 3: Housing Resource Toolbox Web Page Samples

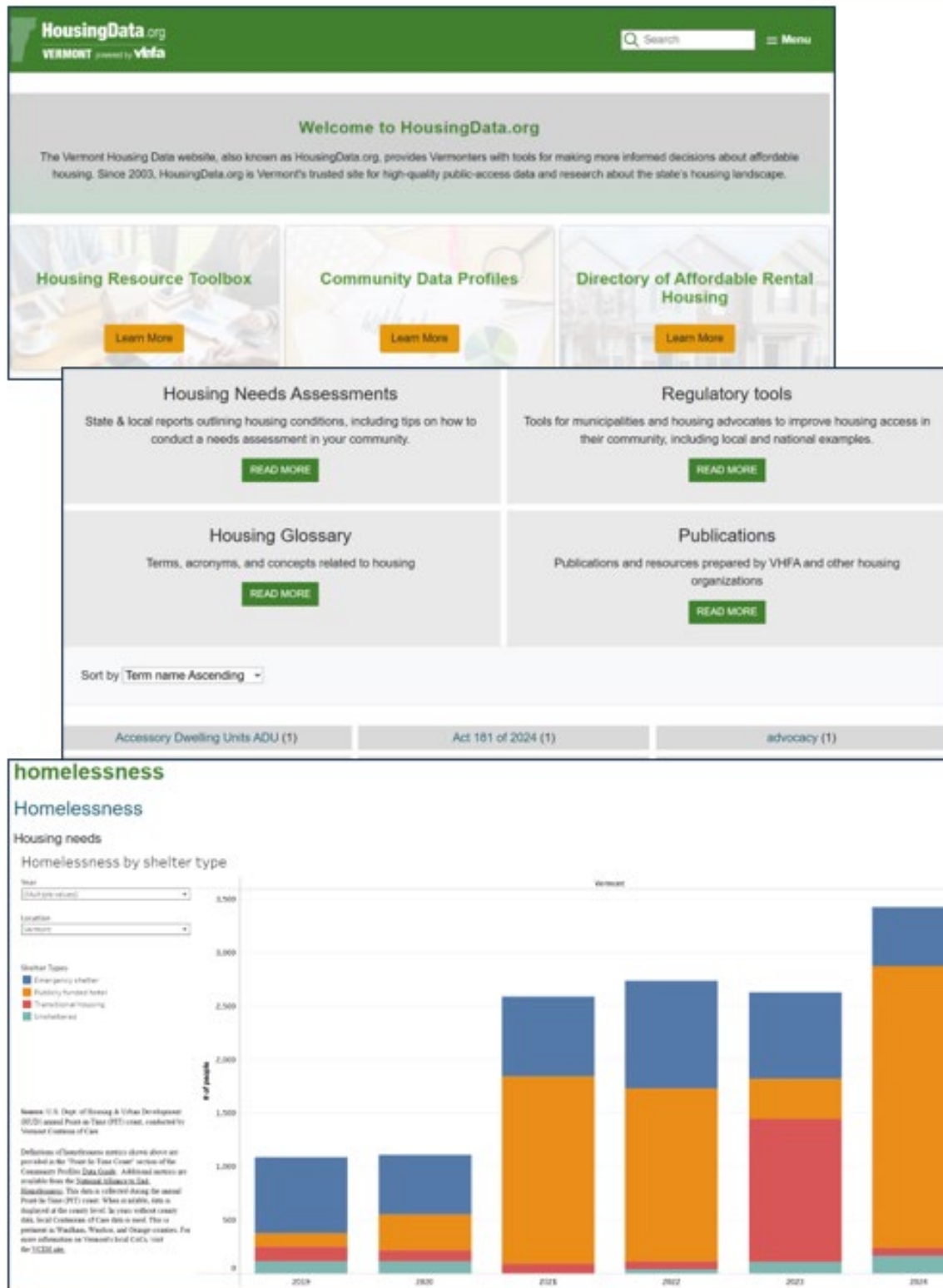
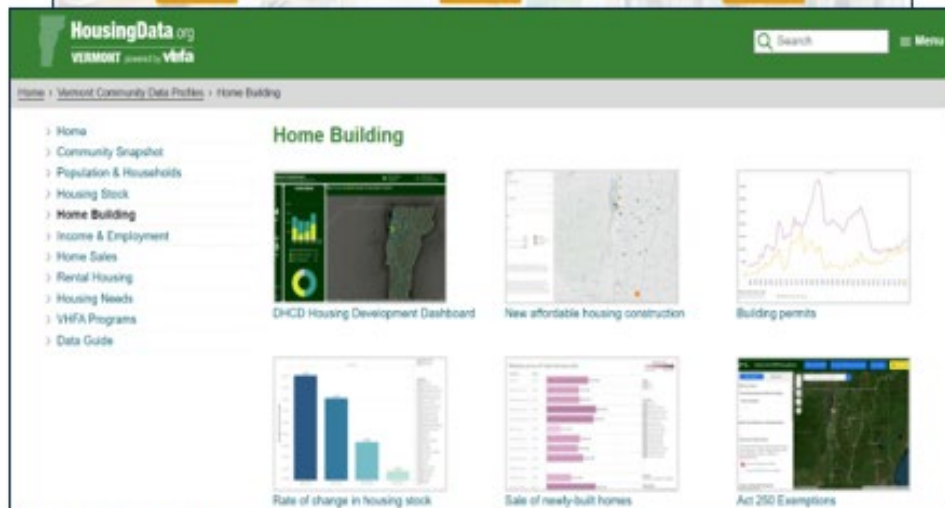


IMAGE 4: Community Data Web Page Samples



Community snapshot

The "Community Snapshot" provides a brief overview of current housing conditions in Vermont's towns and counties, to be compared to statewide figures.

Select Location(s):

Vermont

Or, select a town on the map:

	Vermont
Population (2023)	645,254
Median age (2023)	43
Total homes (2023)	337,072
Occupied homes (2023)	289,486
Owner occupied homes (2023)	196,162
Renter occupied homes (2023)	73,324
Seasonal homes (2023)	50,742
Non-Seasonal Vacant homes (2023)	18,864
Short Term Rentals (Whole unit - Sept 2024)	11,436
Owner occupied (% 2023)	18%
Renter occupied (% 2023)	22%
Seasonal homes (% 2023)	15%
Non-seasonal Vacant homes (% 2023)	5%
Median year homes built (2023)	1976
Growth rate of the housing stock (avg annual, 2010 to 2020)	0.2%
Median gross monthly rent (2023)	\$1,193
Median primary home sale price (2023)	\$329,000
Primary home sales (2023)	5,789
Jobs (2023)	308,971
Median wages (2023)	\$61,823
Workers living & working in different towns (% 2023)	62%
Median household income (2023)	\$78,524
Ratio of local to county median household income (% 2023)	100%
Severe cost burden (>50% income towards housing) (% 2023)	14%
Individuals experiencing homelessness* (County only - 2024)	3,430



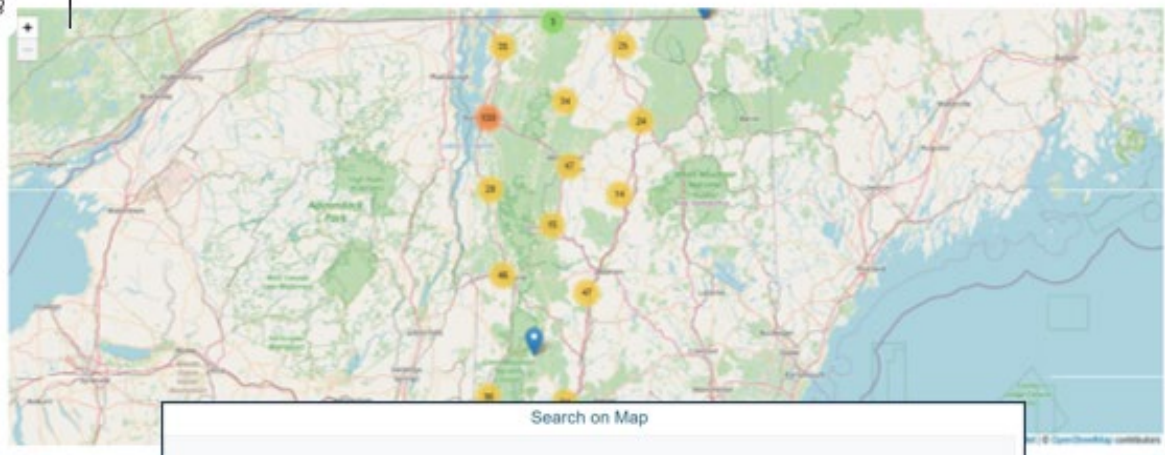
IMAGE 5: Directory of Affordable Rental Housing Web Page Samples



Map of Affordable Rental Housing Properties

Displaying 1 - 556 of 556

County: Any Apply



Search on Map

City/Town: Any County: Addison County Project Name: Any Age-restricted to elderly (4)

☐ Limited to disabled tenants (1) ☐ Restricted to elderly or younger people with disabilities (2) ☐ Accessible/adaptable (21)

☐ Supportive housing for homeless (2) **Reset**

Property Name	Total Apartments	Apts restricted to elderly and/or tenants with disabilities
Armory Lane Senior Housing 50 Armory Lane Extension, Vergennes	25	25
Briarwood Apartments 210 Valley View Drive, Middlebury	24	0
Creekview Housing 20 Hillside Drive, Vergennes	36	0
Firehouse Apartments 45, 47, & 75 Firehouse Drive, Bristol	20	0
Fox Run Apartments	30	0