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—Article Number:.....42704

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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 WWHT offers repair help for West County homeowners

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 Windham & Windsor Housing Trust's (WWHT) Green
5 Mountain Home Repair (GMHR) program has launched a special
6 initiative in cooperation with The Collaborative and
7 Neighborhood Connections to support homeowners in the
8 Mountain Towns of Andover, Jamaica, Londonderry, Weston, and
9 Windham.

10 According to a news release, eligible homeowners in
11 these communities can now access grants of up to \$25,000 to

12 complete essential health and safety repairs. Funding for this
13 targeted effort is made possible through a generous award from
14 the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund.

15 Income-eligible households (up to \$82,950 for a family
16 of four) may use these grants to address critical issues including
17 roof, plumbing, electrical, and heating repairs; well or septic
18 system replacement; structural concerns; accessibility
19 modifications for older adults or people with disabilities; and
20 energy efficiency improvements.

21 “A 2023 Londonderry Housing Needs Assessment
22 revealed 40% of homeowners are cost-burdened, spending over
23 30% of their income on housing,” said Patty Eisenhaur, chair of
24 the Londonderry Housing Commission. “This issue affects
25 vulnerable populations most, including a growing senior
26 population with fixed incomes.” Some seniors struggle to
27 maintain their homes in a safe, clean and livable manner, which
28 could be the difference between remaining in their homes and
29 having to move into assisted living elsewhere. “We are thrilled
30 that Windham & Windsor Housing Trust is able to offer this
31 special program for our Mountain Town communities,” she said.

32 Residents of other Windham and Windsor County towns
33 remain eligible for assistance through GMHR’s regular program,
34 which provides affordable loans, flexible terms, and support from
35 staff who guide homeowners through the entire repair process—
36 from application to project completion.

37 “Too many Vermonters are living in homes that are
38 unsafe, inefficient, or in need of major repairs,” says Bruce
39 Whitney, WWHT’s director of homeownership. “This focused
40 opportunity will make a real difference for households in our
41 Mountain Towns who face unique challenges due to distance,
42 weather, and limited contractor availability.”

43 GMHR staff help applicants determine project needs,
44 obtain contractor bids, and oversee the construction process to
45 ensure repairs meet quality and safety standards. To apply or

46 learn more, visit homemattershere.org or contact Program
47 Coordinator Jeremy Paquette at 802-246-2116.

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