

1) **MVC Housing Policy applicability:**

As a year-round non-profit educational institution serving Island students grades pre-K – 8th, with additional financial assistance provided to qualified families through a “Equitable Access Assistance” policy, Vineyard Montessori appears to fall under Section 4 “Exceptions to the Policy”, specifically **4.1(b)**: “*non-profit organizations and quasi-publicly owned entities that can establish to the Commission’s satisfaction that the principal population to whom they provide social services is the same as those who would qualify for Affordable or Community Housing*”.

Definitions (from MVC Housing Policy):

Affordable Housing refers collectively to Low Income Housing (up to 50% AMI) and Moderate Income Housing (up to 80% AMI) (and includes Elder Housing and Workforce Housing for those with incomes that qualify them for Affordable Housing)

Community Housing means housing for an individual(s)/household with an income eligibility restriction above 81% and up to 150% AMI (and includes Elder Housing and Workforce Housing for those with incomes that qualify them for Community Housing).

See attached AMI income chart (following page).

VMS student population: According to the applicant:

“53% of the families with children in our care receive public subsidies, including:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (commonly known as SNAP or food stamps);
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- MassHealth / Medicaid and/or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- AND/OR are members of the following types of Socially Vulnerable populations: homeless families; children of young parents, and children involved with Department of Children and Families (DCF)

28% of VMS children in the current school year receive an Equitable Access grant in order to be able to attend”

2) **Additional Housing benefits:**

According to the applicant, the current expansion as proposed would result in the hiring of 3 additional full time VMS staff,

VMS reports that it currently supports its employees in need of housing in two primary ways:

- a) Actively seeking and identifying housing opportunities for any staff in need of housing, both for full-time school-year and supplemental summer staff. This includes connecting staff

with parents of students offering rentable space in their homes, particularly for summer staff.

- b) Providing up to \$5000 relocation fee for first-year full time teachers moving to Island in order to work at VMS

New staff would be supported as needed in the same manner as current staff.