

August 21, 2026

Subject: Changes to Hotel Program for September 1, 2026

Dear Client,

We are writing about Act 143, a law that changes the current hotel/motel housing program, which goes into effect on September 1, 2026. The program changes are outlined below for your awareness. The Act establishes the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum (VHRC) which provides an array of services including prevention and intervention, shelters, case management, and hotel placement. This letter is specific to Level 4 Hotel Placements.

Annual Limit to Number of Days

Act 143 reduces the number of days available you can be housed in a hotel from 80 to 70 in a one year period. Your one-year period is based on your when you have accessed hotel housing in the past 12 months. There is not a reset of the number of days available. Hotel stays during cold weather from 12/1 through 3/31 do not count toward the 70-day limit.

Income Contribution

Act 143 eliminates the requirement for households with income to contribute towards their hotel benefit. As a result, households will no longer be required to complete “self-pay” days starting on 9/1/26.

Assessment

Households that are not currently in housing will need to complete an assessment. This assessment will determine, when the number of hotel rooms is limited, which households will be prioritized for hotel housing. The assessment may not occur the same day VHRC eligibility is established.

Limit on Number of Rooms

The number of rooms that can be used statewide has been set at 700 from April 1st to November 30th and 1,100 from December 1st through March 31st.



Waitlist

When the number of hotel rooms is limited, households will be prioritized for hotel housing based on their priority category and their assessment score. Households that cannot be housed due to capacity will be placed on a waitlist. Each morning the waitlist will be reviewed, and based on availability, households on the waitlist will be offered a room.

Service Agreement

A Service Agreement-Hotel Placement will be issued for each hotel stay. The Service Agreement will provide information about the hotel placement, check-in and check-out dates, and information about number of days used and how to request additional days of housing.

Housing Plan/Progress Towards Goals

One of the new program requirements is that all households must be working towards goals outlined in a Housing Plan to the best of their ability. At initial application, DCF will collect a copy of the Housing Plan. Households need to participate in case management and support services as outlined in the housing plan to remain eligible.

Extensions

Act 143 allows extensions beyond the 70-day limit to be made at the discretion of the commissioner. Applications for extension can be submitted by filling out a form on the DCF website.

Assistance After Hours

All assistance with hotel placements must be made through the call center. The call center is open 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. 211 will no longer be able to assist with hotel placement after hours.

Sincerely,
Vermont Department for Children and Families

