

Good afternoon, Partners, and Advocates,

The General Assistance Emergency Housing program has been the subject of considerable discussion and debate in the legislature. As part of the Budget Adjustment Act process, changes to the existing program and eligibility have been adopted.

Although the Budget Adjustment Act has not been signed into law, we now have clarity on changes to the program contained in the legislation. We have worked to adjust our forms and update our training to support staff in successfully implementing these changes.

We are seeking your help in reaching Vermonters currently living in hotels or motels who are housed under Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC) and do not meet a catastrophic or vulnerable category (these categories are listed on the attached letter for your reference). If the Vermonter has a disability or health condition but is not receiving SSI or SSDI the attached form must be completed by a qualified health care professional, and all questions must be answered in order for ESD to process and determine eligibility. As a reminder, this form should only be completed for those Vermonters with a significant health condition or disability. Capacity is limited, and not every Vermonter will have access to a motel or hotel room.

As of yesterday, we believe 458 households do not meet categorical eligibility and could potentially use this form to qualify.

Please note that Vermonters who meet a catastrophic or vulnerable category and are housed through AWC are currently being mass reauthorized by ESD. They do not need to complete this form or call ESD at this time.

If the Vermonter **does** meet any of the eligibility categories in the letter, please have them contact Economic Services at 1-800-775-0506 immediately.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and assistance. We will make ourselves available through an online Q&A session for partners and advocates in the near future.

Sincerely,
Miranda Gray
Economic Services Deputy Commissioner

