

## DCF Housing Open Office Hours

Monday, July 10, 2023

- Economic Services reviewed the letter shared to guests (see attached).
  - Emergency Rules  
<https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/DCF/Shared%20Documents/ESD/Rules/B23-14E-All-in-one.pdf>
  - Question: Can people on the legal status of furlough be on Coordinated Entry? Answer: Yes, it is based on housing/homelessness status.
  - Question: An MOU with VDH and DMH around housing offers is mentioned in the rules – can you please explain this? Answer: ESD will enter into an MOU with VDH or DMH to review household options for households if the household feels it is not appropriate. Hopefully those working with households will make sure they are only applying for/accessing housing that is appropriate for them.
  - Question: Will data be updated? Answer: Yes, ESD is working to ensure they know who exactly is in the June 30<sup>th</sup> cohort and they anticipate posting this later this week (anticipating Wednesday).
  - Question: What defines what makes sense for a person for housing? If they don't want to leave a county because they have their services set in a current county do they need to accept available housing in another county? Answer: This was corrected in last week's notes, the Emergency Rule does not allow regional based exceptions. Hopefully households are applying for housing that makes sense for them. Coordinated Entry will continue to be a way that resources for those experiencing homelessness are made available to households and those are focused on opportunities that households are seeking.
  - Question: Does the same apply for assisted living beds? Answer: There is no current carve out to give a regional exception. These beds would not be offered through the CE process. ESD is working on the procedural process around how offers are made and tracked.
  - Question: What is the point of running two programs that are so similar and in the same facilities but with different rules? Answer: This is a legislative decision. As of July 1 the only rules for new households are the GA rules and the legislation addresses those who were in the program as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the only way available to implement the language passed by the legislature.
- A summary was provided regarding the LOI process, that is posted on the website. Some projects have been funded through existing programs such as the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (day shelters, for example). Several projects relate to outreach opportunities, expanding shelter capacity and those are in various stages of development and discussion. A few related to temporary rental assistance, planning needs. Projects are in various stages of development.
  - Comment: Noted that supplies for camping would be helpful and beneficial to folks who are unsheltered. Response: There are few projects that requested funding to support camping supplies. At this point the amount of financial assistance available to households to support their housing plans has been increased, those can be used flexibly to support plans. This was increased by \$1.2 million from what was funded last year. Fund Administrators can reach out to OEO if you have creative requests for those funds that are beyond the current scope and OEO will review those on a case by case

basis. Otherwise, it is an outstanding issue to determine if whether or not the \$10 million dollars will be utilized to support camping as there are more requests than funds available. HOP funds have been utilized to support expanded day shelter capacity and AHS would encourage folks to reach out if there is interest in expanding day shelter capacity.

- Question: Is there a single location where all funding opportunities available now for housing/homelessness is available? Answer: Vermont BGS posts all contracts, the Housing Opportunity Grant administered through OEO is posted on the OEO website and that process occurs every spring. There are multiple funding sources, funding opportunities at different times. OEO utilized the two HUD Continuum of Care listservs and encourages folks to be signed up for the VT Coalition to End Homelessness and Chittenden County Housing Alliance listserv. There has also been \$10 million dollars appropriated for one time funding to address this issue. There is a multi-disciplinary team reviewing needs and making recommendations to the Administration/Governor's Office. That will be reported back to the Legislature.
- Question: (several questions summarized) What efforts are underway to help support those who are unsheltered given the rain, flooding? Can responding to these needs be an official SEOC request? Answer: The SEOC (State Emergency Operations Center) is aware and they are working on it.
  - Comment: Weather like this be considered Adverse Weather Conditions, AWC should be expanded. Response: AHS appreciates the point and can take this into consideration. Follow Up: Where can people address their concerns on update to Adverse Weather Conditions? Response: It will be brought to the Commissioner's Office. Folks can send them to the DCF email address [AHS.DCFConsumerConcerns@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFConsumerConcerns@vermont.gov)
  - Vermont Emergency Management should have the information for shelters open to those who have been impacted by flooding. 211 is also a resource.
  - Comment: There is potential for 3Squares VT replacement benefits if folks lose food during floor, fire, power outages. Households should reach out to Economic Services.
- Question: Can we discussed how to assist someone who was exited but has medical needs and should not be homeless? Answer: There will be folks who were exited or who are not eligible for the GA program and there is often a case by case assessment that is needed to assess the resources needed and resources available for each individual. Field Services Directors are local resources that can help facilitate case-based discussions and support care coordination. Field Services are working with DMH and DAILE to review households who may be eligible for high levels of care.
- Question: Can an update be provided on AHS's hiring, recruiting to support care coordination and support tracking of the households in the June 30<sup>th</sup> cohort? Answer: AHS is actively recruiting and someone starts last week, someone may have started today, anticipate seeing this continue in the coming weeks. A greater update will be provided at a future meeting. OEO does have three temporary positions approved and those should be posted this week.
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