

DCF Transitional Housing Program

March 2022

Overview

- The transitional housing program is designed to provide long-term housing in hotels.
- The program utilizes federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds .
- Housing is available for up to 18 months.
 - Households may have already utilized ERAP funds through VERAP or RU ERA.
- A dedicated Transitional Housing unit will be established to process applications

Transition Plan

- 500 households 5/1/22
- 500 households 6/1/22
- 500 households 7/1/22
- Families with children will be transition 7/1/22 to preserve ERAP months.
- Households that have already used ERAP months will transition 7/1/22 to preserve ERAP months.
- Application/occupancy agreement must be in place by the 15th of the prior month in order for a payment to be made for the first of the month.

Eligibility

- 80% Area Median Income (AMI)
 - HUD category 1 or 2
 - Vermont resident
 - No resource test
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- Note-the intention is for everyone who is currently eligible for GA emergency housing to be eligible for transitional housing.

Occupancy Agreement

- Households will enter into an occupancy agreement with a hotel.
- The occupancy agreement is similar to a lease whereas it lays out an occupancy timeframe and payment amounts.
- All adult household members must sign the occupancy agreement.
 - Anyone living in the room is considered a household member.
 - This differs from household composition under GA emergency housing.
- Payments will be made to the motels the first of each month for that month (prospective payments).

Application

- Applications must be signed by all adult household members.
- A new application is required every 90 days.
- Application and attestations must be signed.
- Release language has been added to the application to allow information to be shared with coordinated entry partners.

Security Deposit

- A security deposit equal to 1 month's payment, not to exceed \$3,300, will be paid to the hotel with the first month's payment.
- If the client is in the motel for 4 months or longer, the security deposit, less any damages, will be returned to the client when they exit the occupancy agreement.

Hard to House

- A payment of \$3,300 can be made to a motel as an incentive to sign an occupancy agreement.
- Examples of a Hard to house client include someone who:
 - Is on multiple Do Not Rent lists
 - Has been kicked of a previous occupancy agreement

Provisional Housing

- Available starting on 7/1/22.
- Must be HUD category 1 to qualify for provisional housing.
- Individuals in GA or emergency shelter are not eligible for provisional housing nights (but are eligible for the transitional housing program).
- Covers up to 28 nights of housing while working to obtain an occupancy agreement.

No Period of Ineligibility

- Clients are eligible for the program as long as they meet all eligibility criteria.
- Clients that are exited from an occupancy agreement can receive up to 28 nights of provisional housing while working to obtain a new occupancy agreement.
- Clients that are exited from a second occupancy agreement are not eligible for provisional housing nights but continue to be eligible for transitional housing if they are able to secure an occupancy agreement.

Recertification

- Households are required to recertify every 90 days.
- Households will need to submit a new signed application.
 - An interview is not required.
- Households will be required to engage with coordinated entry/housing navigation services.
 - The definition of engagement and the process for confirming engagement has not yet been defined.

Funding Opportunity

- Notice of Funding Opportunity for Housing Stability Services SFY23
- Notice of Funding Opportunity Released: March 22, 2022, and available on the OEO website
- Optional Prospective Applicant Meeting: March 30, 2022, at 11am