



Economic Services Division Community Meeting

**Presented by: Miranda Gray, Deputy Commissioner,
Economic Services Division, DCF**

Economic Services' Mission and Vision

Our mission:

To provide high quality service while administering programs to improve economic well-being for Vermonters.

Our vision:

Vermonters thrive with a sense of independence and connection to their communities.

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd>

General Updates From Deputy Commissioner Gray

- The summer was busy planning for the launch of Level 4 of the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum.
- Continuing to monitor the impact of HR1 which includes outreach to impacted households and connection to our ICAN program.
- Monitoring other updates out of Washington:
 - Continuing resolution was passed through December 11, 2026
 - Closely monitoring updates on Promoting Integrity and Prevention of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse
- Enhanced Food Requirements goes into effect no later than November 4, 2026. [Final Rule: Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | Food and Nutrition Administration](#)
- Introducing our new Food and Nutrition Director, Aletha Cross

VHRC

The Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum (VHRC) replaced the Emergency Housing program on September 1, 2026.

The VHRC program includes significant changes from previous iterations of the Emergency Housing program.

VHRC Eligibility

To be eligible for the VHRC program, applicants must be:

- 1) Homeless, and
- 2) A Vermont resident

VHRC Assessment

Once an applicant is found eligible for the VHRC program, the household's risk level is determined using the HOU-SING assessment. The risk level is used to determine their Level 4 placement in a hotel/motel.

VHRC Placement

Once a household has been found eligible and completed the HOU-SING assessment, they may receive a VHRC Level 4 placement.

Households complete a housing plan and continue to work on housing goals to remain in a Level 4 placement.

3SVT Updates

3SquaresVT in a SNAP

- Beginning 10/1/26 the age criteria to be eligible for 3SVT in a SNAP has changed to adults 65+ with no earned income due to a federal requirement. It was previously 60+ with no earned income.

Supporting Payment Accuracy

- Economic Services is committed to ensuring the benefits we issue to our customers are accurate. Here are some ways you can assist us!

3SVT Updates

Summer EBT

Summer EBT benefits that were issued in June will be removed from cards in October according to federal requirements. This is called expungement. In an effort to reach these customers prior to expungement and have them use the benefits, ESD will be conducting a texting campaign on September 16th around 4pm.

Summer EBT benefit alert: Your Summer EBT benefits will expire 10/10/26 at 12:01 a.m. If you have questions or need a replacement card, call 1-888-354-0012, option 7.

Fuel Updates

- In Washington DC, funding bills passed both chambers and President Trump signed the Budget CR on September 8, 2026, keeping the federal Government open through 12/11/26, so LIHEAP funding was included in that.
- We are hoping to get Vermont's Notice of Award soon, so we can plan on how those funds should be disbursed. Since we are level funded, we should get 90% of our funds up front. That would be \$20.2 million.
- We issued our Summer Wood and Pellet benefit in July, sending out \$1.060 million to 1165 households. This allows households to shop around and find the best price/ product plus it allows wood to dry prior to the start of the heating season.
- We also issued a \$160 electric benefit to 11,260 active Seasonal Fuel Households. This was to help with the increase energy cost that households have been seeing over the past several months. These funds (approximately \$1.8 million) were sent to the 17 electric utility companies to apply to their accounts.
- Looking ahead. The LIHEAP big benefit run is scheduled to take place in mid-November 2026. Last year we issue \$11.2 million.

Reach Up Updates

Asset Limit Removal:

Reach Up:

As of 7/1/26, whether a family can get Reach Up doesn't depend on how much money, savings, or property they have. In other words, the value of their assets won't be used to decide eligibility.

[2248.1\(e\), 2254.1 \(7-1-26\)](#)

Essential Person:

The Essential Person program will continue to have a resource limit in accordance with the Reach Up Eligibility resource rules adopted August 1, 2024.

[2785 \(7-1-26\)](#)

Reach Up Updates

Reach First

The Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Act eliminated the Reach First program. The program ceased to operate on July 1, 2026.

ADPC Updates

What We Receive The ADPC receives documents related to:	How Documents Arrive	What Happens at the ADPC
• Economic services: 3SquaresVT, Reach Up, Fuel Assistance, etc. • Health care: Green Mountain Care • Long-Term Care (LTC) • Vermont Health Connect (VHC)	In addition to mail, the ADPC receives documents through: • Fax • Email • Uploader • Electronic submissions from district offices	Documents are: Sorted → Batched → Scanned → Indexed This makes documents accessible to case workers and call centers.

Processing Time:

Documents are expected to be **indexed within 2 days** of being received at the ADPC.

Helpful Tips: Submitting Documents via the uploader is more reliable than faxes which sometimes don't come through. Please make sure handwriting on documents is legible. Documents submitted from the uploader are processed first, ahead of documents received from USPS.

Stay Connected

Sign up to join our listserv to receive meeting invites and updates about ESD programs:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/newsletter>

Questions?

Please raise your virtual hand, or type your question in the chat

Next Meeting: December 2026

Thank you for joining us!

Stay Connected

Have a question to a presenter, please contact them at:

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Stay Connected

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