

General Assistance Housing Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC) for the 2022-23 Season

In harsh winter weather commencing November 15, eligibility for temporary shelter through Vermont's General Assistance (GA) and Emergency Assistance (EA) programs will be modified so that persons who are homeless and without adequate financial resources may seek safe shelter.

- A. Beginning November 15, 2022 through December 15, 2022, and March 15, 2023 through April 15, 2023, eligibility for temporary housing will become **weather dependent**. From December 15, 2022 through March 15, 2023, eligibility for temporary housing will **independent of weather forecasts**.
- B. Weather dependent eligibility will go into effect when any of the following conditions exist - or are anticipated to exist – for at least three (3) hours within the hours of 6:00pm-6:00am based on the town in which the district office is located.
 1. Temperatures or Wind Chill are less than 20 degrees (F); or
 2. Temperatures are less than 32 degrees (F) with a higher than 50% chance of precipitation projected.
- C. To ensure AWC is consistently applied throughout the state, the following practice will be used:
 1. The General Assistance (GA) program team will review the forecast, using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Weather Service, for the entire state to determine where and when AWC will be in effect. The ESD public website will have updated determinations and statuses regarding AWC conditions.
 2. To ensure consistency, ESD will use the forecast for the town in which the District Office is located. All towns served by that District Office will have their AWC based on the determination made for that District Office.
- D. Temporary housing may be authorized in increments up to 30 days.
- E. The GA income contribution requirement outlined in Rule 2652.4 do not apply to AWC.
- F. If a household applying for or granted temporary housing under AWC loses their temporary housing at a shelter, hotel or similar establishment for not following the rules of the establishment, the household will be ineligible for further temporary housing for 30 days beginning with the date of ejection from the shelter, motel, or similar establishment.

If a household applying for temporary housing under AWC refused available shelter space or did not show up at the shelter in time to accept available shelter space, the household will be ineligible for further temporary housing for a period of 30 days beginning with the date the applicant refused available shelter space or did not show up at the shelter in time to accept available shelter space.

If a household applying for temporary housing has refused available housing, the household will be deemed ineligible for a motel voucher per requirements to exhaust other housing options in Rule 2652.2

If a household does not check in at an ESD District Office or call ESD at 1-800-479-6151 the following business day after being housed by 211, the household will be ineligible for further temporary housing until they apply at an ESD District Office.

- G. Households that are exited from the DCF Transitional Housing program for failure to participate in the coordinated entry process, TH-114, will not be eligible for housing assistance for the duration of AWC.
- H. Although there is no cap on the number of nights temporary housing can be authorized under AWC, nights received under AWC will count toward the maximum number of nights that can be received under catastrophic criteria (84 nights in a 12-month period) or vulnerable populations (28 nights in a 12-month period).
- I. Consistent with ESD's participation in Coordinated Entry, District Offices should complete a Housing Crisis Referral form for each applicant requesting housing under AWC and forward those referrals to the local continuum of care's Lead Agency.

11/2022