

Department for Children and Families
Economic Services Division
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-1020

Agency of Human Services

[fax] 802-241-0460
[toll free] 800-775-0506

Date: March 11, 2025

Subject: General Assistance Emergency Housing Program – Informational Notice

This is an informational notice to provide you with an update about the General Assistance (GA) Emergency Housing program. Here's what you need to know:

Current Rules

- **80 Day Limit during non-adverse weather:** You can stay in motels/hotels for up to 80 days between July 1 - November 30, 2024, and April 1- June 30, 2025
- **Room Limits:** There is a room cap of 1,100 hotel/motel rooms per night from April 1- June 30, 2025. This means that even if you are eligible for emergency housing, Economic Services will not be able to house you if all 1,100 rooms are occupied.

What This Means for You, Under the Current Rules

- If you **have not yet used** your 80 nights, you are still eligible for emergency housing assistance **after April 1, 2025**. You must contact the GA Housing line when your authorization is expiring to renew.
- If you have already used your 80 nights, you **will not be eligible** for additional assistance **after April 1, 2025**.
- If you would like to know when you are eligible for housing again, please call 1-800-775-0506.

What's Happening Now

- The legislature has proposed changes to the day and room limits in the emergency housing program. These changes must go through the legislative process, including review as part of the state budget process. We can't predict when they will happen, or even if they will happen at all.
- If changes are made to increase or eliminate the 80 day limit, you may be eligible for emergency housing assistance after April 1 even if you have already used your 80 nights.
- For now, the current rules still apply.





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We'll keep you updated on any changes. Some changes might come at short notice.

We understand that this uncertainty can be concerning, and we want to assure you that we will keep you informed of any changes as soon as we know about them. If you have questions about your eligibility, or if you are looking for a referral to a shelter, please call **1-800-775-0506** to speak to a benefit specialist.

Additional information about addressing and preventing homelessness, including previously sent letters about rule and law changes, can be found on our website:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/Addressing-and-Preventing-Unsheltered-Homelessness>



YOUR RIGHTS

Right to Request a Fair Hearing

If you disagree with a decision made by ESD, you may ask for an expedited (*speedy*) fair hearing. It will usually be held within 10 days. A fair hearing is your chance to tell your story to the Human Services Board. The board will review the facts of your case in a fair and objective manner and decide whether ESD's decision should be upheld or reversed.

To request a fair hearing, call:

- ESD at 1-800-775-0506, or
- The Human Services Board at 1-802-828-2536.

You must ask for a fair hearing within 90 days of the date you receive notice. You may ask someone you trust to help you make the request.

Rights of People with Disabilities

Do you have a physical or mental or learning condition that makes it hard to do things we ask you to do? We can make changes to help you.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Vermont law say that we must make changes so people with disabilities can get public benefits. These changes are called reasonable accommodations. Here are some examples of changes we can make:

- Someone can write down your answers if you cannot.
- We can give you more time or help you get the documents you need to give us.
- You can have a support person with you when you talk to us.
- We can send documents with a larger print so you can read them.
- We can meet with you in your home or by telephone, so you do not have to come into the District Office.

Call 1-800-775-0506 to let us know if you need us to make changes so you can get the benefits you need.

Do You Need Free Legal Help?

You may be able to get free legal help from Vermont Legal Aid. Call 1-800-889-2047.

Do You Have Questions?

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call us at 1-800-775-0506.