

ESD and OEO Community Meeting
November 15, 2024

Agenda

1. Relaxed Eligibility Criteria 12/1/2024 to 3/31/2025.
 - a. 1100 room cap is not in effect during this time period.
 - b. 80-night maximum eligibility does not apply during this time period.
 - i. Nights used between 12/1/2024 and 3/31/2025 do not count towards the 80-night maximum eligibility.
 - c. Categorical eligibility remains in effect.
 - d. The following is a link to the full description of eligibility from 12/1/2024 to 3/31/2025 [Addressing and Preventing Unsheltered Homelessness | Department for Children and Families](#)
2. ESD will begin processing authorizations for 12/1/2024 for households that have already exhausted their 80 nights beginning 11/18/2024.
 - a. Early authorizations will begin on 11/18/2024 to ensure a smooth transition for a rule change that occurs on the Sunday of a holiday weekend.
 - b. Early-authorizations are designed to facilitate housing placements for individuals eligible under the GA program who have exhausted their 80 nights and are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
3. Outreach to Households
 - a. ESD will be conducting outreach to households that have been identified as unsheltered and have no housing options.
 - i. Typically identified through a Reach-up Case Manager, Field Services, or other information known to ESD.
 - b. ESD is requesting support from community partners in identifying households who are unsheltered, have no housing options, and otherwise qualify for the General Assistance emergency housing program.
 - i. ESD is exploring the opportunity to collaborate with partners that are interested in hosting an on-site Benefit Program Specialist to process applications and complete early authorizations.
 1. Please contact the housing unit's management team at AHS.DCFESDGAHManagement@vermont.gov if you would like to host a Benefit Program Specialist between 11/18/2024-11/27/2024
 - ii. ESD is exploring the opportunity of setting appointment times with community partners to process applications and complete early authorizations.
 1. Please contact the housing unit's management team at AHS.DCFESDGAHManagement@vermont.gov if you would like to set-up an appointment to assist households in applying for an early authorization.

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- c. ESD is requesting support in printing/posting fliers that provide information on how to apply for an early authorization.
 - i. Would like to post in food shelves, partner offices, libraries etc.
 - d. ESD's housing call center will be open extended hours from 11/18/2024-11/27/2024.
 - i. Call center hours will be 8am to 6pm 11/18/24-11/27/2024.
4. Income Contribution
- a. The income contribution for December will be delayed to mid-December for households that have exhausted their 80 nights.
 - i. This will allow households to enter housing on 12/1/2024
5. GA is a Shelter First Program
- a. Households will be referred to open shelter space when space is available.
 - i. A Period of Ineligibility may be applied for refusing a shelter bed.
6. Shelter Capacity (a snapshot in time)

| County | Total Current Household Capacity | Additional Projects in Development (anticipated timelines) |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Addison | 62 | |
| Bennington | 31 | |
| Caledonia | 35 | |
| Chittenden | 140 | Two seasonal shelters anticipated to open this winter (approximately 60 households). |
| Franklin | 25 | Two new shelters anticipated to open in winter (approximately 19 households). |
| Lamoille | 28 | |
| Orleans | 7 | |
| Rutland | 20 | |
| Washington | 104 | |
| Windham | 69 | Expanded seasonal capacity anticipated mid-November (12 households). |
| Windsor | 39 | Expanded apartment capacity mid-November (3 households) and new seasonal shelter anticipated mid-December (5 households). |
| Grand Total | 560 | |