



## **Vt Network Recommendations to GA Task Force meeting 11/19/24**

Not only is domestic violence the leading cause of homelessness for woman and children in the U.S., but homelessness also increases an individual's risk of violence, including sexual violence. A study from the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council found people experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of victimization themselves. Nearly half — 49% for men and 48% for women — of those surveyed reported experiencing violence. This isn't just a statistic, but something that providers in Vermont can attest to.

- We recommend changing GA criteria for those eligible for GA due to experiencing violence to read: "Is experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a household member that caused the household to lose its housing; or have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a household member while in a GA funded motel or while living unsheltered or in precarious housing."
- We recommend removing the Period of Ineligibility. There are many reasons why a survivor may be exited from a motel or shelter, having to do with trauma or due to the actions of the person who has caused them harm. We believe that periods of ineligibility pose undue punishment on already vulnerable populations, many times leading to unsheltered homelessness.
- We agree with the task force's recommendations from 10/7/24 eliminating the room cap and creating a standardized review process to identify barriers and additional resources for households while keeping them sheltered until housing or alternative shelter is found.

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