

Office of Economic Opportunity and Economic Services Division Community Meeting

6/11/2025

General Assistance (GA) Emergency Housing Program Updates – June 2025

1. Program Continuity and Legislative Framework

- The GA Emergency Housing Program will continue under the eligibility criteria established by Act 27 of 2025. Review bill here:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2026/H.493>
- Key features include a rolling 80-day limit on emergency housing assistance. Emergency Housing nights are counted on a rolling basis. There is no reset of the 80-day limit. Each day used in the past 12 months counts toward the 80-day limit, regardless of the calendar year. The only days of emergency housing assistance that do not count toward your 80-day limit are days that were housed during emergency winter housing from December 1 through March 31.
- As if July 1, 2025, there will no longer be a requirement to spend down all of your resources.

2. Eligibility and Application Process

- The application and interview process remains unchanged: clients can apply by phone or in person at district offices where representatives of the Department may assist the applicant through the phone application process.
- Clients are encouraged to reapply 10 days before the end of their current authorization period.
 - We anticipate the last week of June/first week of July will be busy. Helping clients call in advance of the end of their current auth will help decrease the wait time for everyone.
- Initial placements prioritize available shelter space; if none is available, motel/hotel accommodations may be offered.
- Clients are expected to transition to shelter placements if space becomes available.



- A contribution of 30% of monthly gross income is required.
- Clients must actively search for and accept housing alternatives and participate in monthly housing-related activities.

3. Support for Households in the Executive Order (No. 03-25) (EO) Cohort

- Households in the EO cohort have received written notices detailing eligibility decisions, including the number of nights used and future eligibility dates if applicable.
- See Appendix A regarding counting of nights

4. Notification

- Going forward, households will be receiving an update notice of decision which will include eligibility decisions, including the number of nights used and future eligibility dates if applicable.

5. Collaboration with Housing Advocates and Partners

- ESD is committed to transparent communication and collaboration with housing advocates and partners.
- Regular updates and resources are available on the DCF website: [Addressing and Preventing Unsheltered Homelessness](#).

6. Looking Ahead:

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 9-10am:

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Appendix A

Executive Order 03-25 states “the 80 day maximum shall be waived for the period of April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025”.

GA Rule 2652.2 states:

I. Housing Limits

1. The maximum number of days a household may receive emergency housing in a hotel or motel shall not exceed 80 cumulative days in a 12-month period.
2. The 12-month period is calculated from the first day of the authorization period to the same day of the month 12 months prior.
3. Emergency housing assistance provided from December 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 shall be exempt from and shall not count toward the 80-day housing limit.
4. Emergency housing assistance received prior to July 1, 2024 does not count toward the 80-day housing limit.

The EO waived the maximum number of days under #1 above.

- The EO did not change the 12-month lookback period in #2.
- The language used in the EO only exempted emergency housing assistance provided from April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 from the 80-day housing limit, it did not exclude those nights from counting toward the 80-day housing limit after June 30, unlike how nights are excluded during adverse weather conditions (AWC) in #3 above.

Act 27 of 2025

- This legislation does not reset the 12-month look back period as was done in Act 113 of 2024.

