

June 22, 2026

Subject: Important Update: Emergency Housing Rules in Effect July 1, 2026

Dear Community Partners,

The Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF), Economic Services Division (ESD), would like to share important information regarding the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program.

The legislature recently passed H938, a bill that establishes the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum and changes the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program. This bill requires DCF to draft emergency rules by September 1, 2026. Between July 1, 2026 and August 31, 2026, the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules approved rules from March 13, 2025 will continue to be in effect.

This means:

- Emergency Housing benefits will continue to be capped at the 80-night limit in a rolling 12-month period.
 - 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 or fiscal year. The only days of emergency housing assistance that do not count toward the 80-day limit are days during emergency winter housing from December 1 through March 31.

We encourage community partners to help share this information with individuals and families currently staying in Emergency Housing.

If you or the individuals you support have questions about Emergency Housing eligibility, please contact the Economic Services Division at 1-800-775-0506.

Thank you for the important work you do to support Vermonters experiencing homelessness and for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,
Economic Services Division
Vermont Department for Children and Families

