

Community Meeting 5/23/2024

The House and Senate approved the Big Bill which outlines the new eligibility criteria for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program. You can review the bill language [here](#). The Governor will be reviewing this bill and will decide to either sign it, allow it to pass without a signature or to veto it. Until one of these actions takes place, the bill is not in place yet. The changes to the GA Emergency Housing program will be operationalized through an emergency and then final rule making process. It is the intention of DCF to provide a short public comment period before filing the emergency rules.

The summary of the bill language as its written right now:

Eligibility Criteria for Emergency Housing:

- Only those who meet one of the following eligibility criteria will be offered emergency housing assistance.
 - Age 65+
 - Has a disability (SSI, SSDI, Medical Variance form)
 - Families with child(ren) age 19 and under
 - Pregnant
 - Death of a spouse, domestic partner, minor child
 - Experienced a natural disaster
 - Court ordered or constructive eviction (no fault of the household)
 - Experienced domestic and similar dangerous violence

Caps and Limits:

- A room cap of 1,100 hotel/motel rooms per night during warmer months
 - September 15 – November 30, 2024, and April 1- June 30, 2025.
- Maximum of 80 days of emergency housing per 12-month period excluding adverse weather conditions nights.
- No room cap during Adverse Weather Conditions
- Prioritization may be necessary when close to the 1,100 cap or capacity cap.



Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC)

- AWC is only available to households that meet the above eligibility criteria for Emergency Housing
- AWC is in effect continuously from December 1, 2024, - March 31, 2025
- Nights used during the AWC time period do not count towards the maximum 80 nights of eligibility.

Expansion of Emergency Shelters:

- \$10 million in contingency funding allocated for shelter expansion for the winter months or beyond if possible.

Creation of Task Force:

- Within the next year, the General Assistance Emergency Housing Task Force will review and provide recommendations about the program to the legislature. DCF will be reaching out soon to entities named in the bill as Task Force members.

Communication plan (Once bill becomes law)

- DCF will send a letter to community partners and all motels we are currently working with to summarize the change.
 - Notification to clients will be sent both via the hotels and via the United States Postal Service
- DCF will notify motel management about the decrease in capacity needs starting September 15th.
- DCF will be reaching out to entities named in the legislative bill to invite representatives to the Task Force meetings.

Next meeting: June 20th at 9am

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 293 648 018 96

Passcode: HqAXpn

Dial-in by phone

[+1 802-552-8456,,258520253#](#) United States, Montpelier

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 258 520 253#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)
