

End Of Governor's Executive Order No. 03-25

On March 28, 2025, Governor Scott issued an [executive order](#) allowing individuals and families participating in the GA Housing Program (commonly known as the "Hotel / Motel Program") to remain in the program an additional three months. This order expires today, July 1, returning the program to its normal structure as articulated by the General Assembly. 385 households who would have exited sooner if not for the executive order are leaving the program today.

None of us want to see Vermonters end up unsheltered. Providing stable, long-term housing is always the goal. However, it is important to emphasize what the executive order provided for some of our most vulnerable families.

The executive order bought participants time, providing an additional three months of stability through the school year, as well as additional time to seek services, case management, and housing options.

The State used the extra time bought by the Executive Order to support GA program participants. We worked intensively to identify housing solutions and match resources to participants, whether through access to shelter, transitional housing, or nursing and specialty care. Our aggressive efforts in case management increased the number of participants connected to services from 45% in April to 84% by mid-June, ensuring Vermonters in the program received the support they needed for the next steps in their journey. Since April 1, the number of families with children housed under the Executive Order has decreased from around 300 to 178 households, as many have moved into more stable and appropriate living arrangements.

It is important to emphasize that, while people are exiting the program, not all are going to be unhoused. From prior experience, we know that only a fraction of GA participants who exit the program end up sleeping outdoors. Many find housing solutions, move in with family, or identify other options.

It's also important to recognize that some people for whom we have identified solutions ultimately decided not to participate in them and remained in the GA Program. There are various reasons for these choices, such as not wanting to be separated from a spouse or pet, preferring to stay close to friends and community, or meeting sobriety requirements in recovery programs. We respect Vermonters' decisions, but it is important to clarify that not every exit is due to a lack of options or available services. Regardless of personal choices, we remain committed to finding solutions that meet the needs of Vermonters where they are.

Finally, the GA program is not good for the people it serves. Continuing this program does not help people move forward into long-term housing solutions. It's meant to be a safety net, not a housing program. We are focused on the future, working to continue providing an increased

level of services and supports for unhoused Vermonters and GA program participants. We are actively identifying long-term solutions for participants and those in our shelters, including placing people in over 150 new Vermont Housing Improvement Program units that are opening in the next few months. We are also collaborating with community partners and the legislature to chart out a future where the support system better meets the needs and assists the future of unhoused Vermonters.

Sincerely,

DCF Economic Services Division

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