

Department for Children and Families*Economic Services Division*

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1020

Agency of Human Services

[fax] 802-241-0460

[toll free] 800-775-0506

Date: May 31, 2024

Subject: Important Changes to the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program Beginning July 1

Starting July 1, 2024, a new law changes the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program that you are currently housed under. This letter highlights the most important changes. We will send you more letters that will cover other program changes.

What you need to know:

- **80 Day Limit during non-adverse weather:** Participants in the program will only be allowed a total of 80 days to stay in motels/hotels from July 1 - November 30, 2024, and April 1- June 30,2025.
- **Eligibility Changes:** The new law states that only households with a member who meets one of the following eligibility criteria will be offered emergency housing assistance in a motel/hotel.
 - Age 65+
 - Has a disability (SSI, SSDI, Medical Variance form)
 - Child(ren) age 19 and under
 - Pregnant
 - Has experienced the death of a spouse, domestic partner, minor child that caused the housing loss.
 - Has experienced a natural disaster that caused the housing loss.
 - Court ordered or constructive eviction (no fault of the household)
 - Experienced domestic or similar dangerous violence that caused the housing loss.
- **Room Limits:** The new law limits the number of hotel/motel rooms during non-adverse weather.
 - There is a room cap of 1,100 hotel/motel rooms per night during September 15 – November 30, 2024, and April 1- June 30, 2025. This means that even if you are eligible for emergency housing, we will not be able to house you if all 1,100 rooms are occupied.
 - No room caps will be imposed from December 1, 2024, - March 31, 2025.

More information will be shared during June through letters like this. If you would like help planning for the changes that are coming, please call ESD at 1-800-775-0506 and we will help connect you to local resources.

