

Date: March 28, 2025

Subject: Changes to the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program

We are writing to inform you about Governor Scott's recent **Executive Order 03-25** regarding Vermont's General Assistance Emergency Housing Program, effective **April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025**. The Executive Order creates two priority eligibility groups: (1) families with children; and (2) households with a medically vulnerable individual.

For Families with Children:

Families with custody of children under the age of 19 will receive priority for emergency housing. The Executive Order lifts the 80- day limit, ensuring that eligible families can access housing assistance through June 30, 2025. This change is intended to offer stability and reduce the disruption that frequent relocations can cause for children. Families will remain a top priority, with additional services available if needed.

For Households with a Medically Vulnerable Individual:

Medically vulnerable individuals are defined as those with severe medical conditions, including:

- Someone who is **homebound** and needs help from another person or uses medical equipment (like a wheelchair).
- A person who uses a **lifesaving device** that needs electricity, such as an oxygen machine.
- Anyone undergoing **active cancer treatment** or treatment for severe heart, kidney, or liver disease.
- Someone receiving **home-based nursing services** (like hospice or visiting nurses).
- A person in their **third trimester of pregnancy** or entering it between April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025.



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The Executive Order lifts the 80-day limit, ensuring that these individuals will have continued access to emergency housing assistance through June 30, 2025, to prevent health complications. This group will be closely monitored, and eligibility will be assessed based on documented medical needs.

All other households:

Current rules still apply to all other households.

**80 Day Limit during non-adverse weather:** Households that do not belong to a priority eligibility group can stay in motels/hotels for up to 80 days between July 1 - November 30, 2024, and April 1 - June 30, 2025. Beginning April 1, 2025, if a household has already used all 80 days, the household will no longer be eligible for emergency housing in a motel/hotel.

**Room Limits:** There is a room cap of 1,100 hotel/motel rooms per night from April 1 - June 30, 2025. This means that even if a household is eligible for emergency housing, Economic Services will not be able to house the household if all 1,100 rooms are occupied.

Additional Details:

The Executive Order is applicable to eligible households who are served by the program on Monday, March 31, 2025.

If you believe you qualify under any of these categories or need assistance understanding your eligibility, please contact **1-800-775-0506** to speak with a benefit specialist.

Additional information about addressing and preventing homelessness, including previously sent letters about rule and law changes, can be found on our website:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/Addressing-and-Preventing-Unsheltered-Homelessness>

