

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: March 28, 2025**

**Subject: Important Update on General Assistance Emergency Housing Program**

Dear Community Partners and Providers,

We are reaching out to inform you about Governor Scott's **Executive Order 03-25** regarding changes to 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, allowing eligible families to remain housed through June 30, 2025. This change helps ensure stability and minimizes disruption for families.

For Households with a Medically Vulnerable Individual:

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

- People who are **homebound** and need assistance or use medical equipment (like a wheelchair).
- Those using a **lifesaving device** that requires electricity, such as an oxygen machine.
- Individuals undergoing **active cancer treatment** or treatment for severe heart, kidney, or liver disease.
- Those receiving **home-based nursing services** (such as hospice or VNA visits).
- Women in their **third trimester of pregnancy** or entering it between April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025.

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, and their eligibility will be assessed based on medical documentation.



**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

For 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 of their 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 applies to households currently served by the program on **Monday, March 31, 2025.**

If you or your clients need assistance understanding eligibility or have questions, please contact **1-800-775-0506** to speak with a benefit specialist.

For more information and updates about addressing and preventing homelessness, please visit:

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

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support.

