

Subject: Important Update: End of the Emergency Winter Housing Protections – March 31, 2026

Dear Community Partners,

The Vermont Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division (ESD), would like to share an important update regarding the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program.

The Emergency Winter Housing protections that have been in place during the winter season will conclude on March 31, 2026. Beginning April 1, 2026, the standard General Assistance Emergency Housing rules will again apply.

This means:

- Emergency Housing benefits will return to the 80-night limit counting from July 1, 2025.
- The program's 1,100-room statewide cap will also go back into effect.

Please note that Emergency Housing nights used between December 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, do not count toward a household's 80-night maximum.

Starting April 1, 2026, any new Emergency Housing nights will count toward the 80-night limit. Households that have already used 80 nights since July 1, 2025 (not including nights used between December 1 and March 31) will no longer be eligible for Emergency Housing beginning April 1.

We encourage community partners to help share this information with individuals and families currently staying in Emergency Housing and to support them in planning for the transition as winter protections end.

If you or the individuals you support have questions about Emergency Housing eligibility, please contact the Economic Services Division at 1-800-775-0506.

Thank you for the important work you do to support Vermonters experiencing homelessness and for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,
Economic Services Division
Vermont Department for Children and Families

