

Dear Community Partners and Housing Service Providers,

As the Adverse Weather approaches, the Economic Services Division (ESD) is reaching out to request your support in identifying households who are unsheltered, have no housing options, and otherwise would qualify for the General Assistance (GA) hotel/motel program beginning December 1, 2024, to facilitate a smoother start to the Adverse Weather season.

Starting on November 18, 2024, we will begin issuing early-authorizations to facilitate housing placements for individuals eligible under the GA program who are currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Individuals or families who have access to shelter through family or friends are not eligible for GA while they have another housing solution.

Our aim with these early authorizations is to provide timely support in anticipation of the upcoming holidays and weekends, ensuring a smooth start to the program and efficient processing of applications. ESD will issue an appointment card to each eligible client, detailing their check-in date, the name and address of the establishment where their reservation has been secured for December 1, 2024. Please note that if a client does not check in on the specified date, they may be subject to ineligibility penalties.

Additionally, ESD is exploring opportunities to collaborate with agencies that are interested in hosting an on-site Benefit Program Specialist. This would enable clients to apply for assistance in person at your location, potentially improving accessibility and support for those in need. If your agency is interested in hosting a specialist or learning more about this partnership, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and commitment to serving our community's most vulnerable members. If you have any questions about the early-authorization process or are interested in hosting a Benefit Program Specialist, please contact our housing unit's management team at: AHS.DCFESDGAHManagement@vermont.gov

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Sincerely,

Nicole Tousignant
Benefit Programs Director, Economic Services
Department for Children and Families

