

State of Vermont Department for Children and Families Economic Services Division General Assistance Housing

Updates for September 2024

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd>

GA Housing program changes

- 80-night housing limit – effective from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025
 - Does not include AWC nights (12/1/2024 through 3/31/2025)
- 1,100 rooms per night cap (statewide)
 - 7/1/2024 through 11/30/2024 &
 - 4/1/2025 through 6/30/2025

Categorical Eligibility changes as of 7/1/2024

- Is age 65 or older
- Receives Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance
- Has provided ESD a valid 201G-VR
- Is a child 19 years of age or younger
- Is pregnant (any trimester)
- Has experienced the death of a spouse, domestic partner, or minor child that caused the household to lose its housing
- Has experienced a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, or hurricane
- Is under a court-ordered eviction or constructive eviction due to circumstances over which the household has no control
- Is experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a household member that caused the household to lose its housing

Administrative Procedure

As of September 15th, 2024, the General Assistance Emergency Housing program is required to follow the new law that caps the total number of hotel or motel rooms to be utilized by the program at 1,100.

When the program reaches 90 percent of the hotel and motel rooms capacity, the State will follow a new administrative procedure to help distribute the remaining rooms to the most vulnerable households.

Administrative Procedure

When the program reaches 90 percent room capacity (990 rooms) the remainder of the rooms will be granted to households with a member who:

- is a child 19 years of age or under,
- is pregnant,
- is experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, hate violence, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence against the individual that caused the household to lose its housing,
- is 65 years of age or older, or
- is otherwise categorically eligible and includes a member who is 50 years of age or older.

Households who meet one of the categories listed above can apply for assistance at any time. All other households can call for assistance after 12 p.m.

Administrative Procedure Communication

A notice has been provided to current motel guests of the administrative procedure; an additional notice will be going out next week.

A notification will be posted online when the administrative procedure is in effect: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EA-GA>

Benefit specialists will be informing callers when the administrative procedure is in effect.

If a household is unsure when they can apply, or if they are looking for a referral to a shelter, they can call **1-800-775-0506** to speak to a benefit specialist.

Link for more information on the Administrative Procedure - [GA-Admin-Procedure.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Notable Dates

- 9/15 – 1,100 nightly room cap goes into effect
 - 9/15 – GA Housing phone lines will be open
- 9/19 – 80 days from 7/1
- 12/1 – Adverse Weather Condition (AWC) block begins
- 4/1/2025 – AWC block ends

Burlington District Households

266 Households

- 327 adults
- 91 children

[Addressing and Preventing Unsheltered Homelessness | Department for Children and Families \(vermont.gov\)](#) – as of 8/26/2024

Adverse Weather Condition (AWC)

- December 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025
- No night counts/night limit
- Must meet categorical eligibility, no relaxed eligibility

Thank you!

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd>

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

[Emergency Housing Rules \(2652\)](#)

[Emergency Housing Disability Variance Request Form \(201G-VR\)](#)