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FY 2025 General Assistance Emergency Housing

FAQs

The FY25 Vermont State Budget legislation (H.833) includes language that outlies the scope of the FY25 General Assistance Emergency Housing system. FY 25 will run from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Who qualifies for General Assistance Emergency Housing?

Under H.833, the following people qualify for General Assistance Emergency Housing provided through hotels and motels (this replaces the previous catastrophic and vulnerable categories):

- Is 65 years of age or older;
- Has a disability that can be documented by:
 - Receipt of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance; or
 - A form developed by the Department as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition that requires:
 - The applicant's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number or other identifying number;
 - A description of the applicant's disability or health condition;
 - A description of the risk posed to the applicant's health, safety, or welfare if temporary emergency housing is not authorized pursuant to this section; and
 - A certification of a health care provider, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481, that includes the provider's credentials, credential number, address, and phone number;
- Is 19 years of age or under;
- Is Pregnant;
- 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; or
- 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.

Are there caps on the number of hotels and motels available under the system for those who qualify?

It depends.

During the non-winter period – September 15 through November 30, 2024 and April 1 through June 30, 2025 – the number of hotel and motel rooms available for use under the system is capped at 1,100 per night.

During the winter period – December 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 – there is no cap on the number of hotel and motel rooms available for use under the system.

Are there caps on the amount of money a hotel or motel can charge under this system?

Yes. DCF cannot pay more than \$80/per day per room.

Can the state engage in a facility lease, sales agreement, or other contract with a hotel or motel provider?

Yes.

DCF can work with either a shelter provider or a community housing agency to enter into a full or partial facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider.

DCF can also, if it determines that a contractual agreement with a hotel or motel operator is beneficial to improve the quality, cleanliness, or access to services for those households temporarily housed in the facility, enter into an agreement in accordance with the per-room rate identified above, provided that in no event shall such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused. DCF may include provisions to address access to services or related needs within the contractual agreement.

What is the maximum number of days that an eligible household can receive?

Per 12-month period, eligible household can receive up to 80 days of emergency housing in a hotel or motel. This cap does not apply during the winter period outlined above.

Are people who do not meet the eligibility criteria able to utilize General Assistance Emergency Housing?

No, but the Department for Children and Families shall develop emergency shelters for non-qualifying people during the winter period (December 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025). H.833 requires DCF to work with community providers as available to deliver daytime and overnight shelter services and appropriates \$10 million for DCF to develop emergency shelters as required in this section. This emergency shelter can be a congregate, semicongregate, or non-congregate and shall provide limited services, including limited storage of possessions and personal hygiene facilities.