



# Progress on Transitioning from the Pandemic-era GA Emergency Housing Program

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Commissioner**

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# Act 113 Changes to the GA Housing Program

Act 113: "The utilization of hotel and motel rooms pursuant to this subdivision shall be capped at 1,100 rooms per night between September 15, 2024, through November 30, 2024, and between April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. (2) The maximum number of days that an eligible household receives emergency housing in a hotel or motel under this section, per 12-month period, shall not exceed 80 days."

# Administrative Procedures for Act 113

*During times where the number of eligible households exceeds 90% of the 1,100 per night room cap, or 90% of hotel capacity during time periods when the 1,100 per night room cap is not in place, the department will use the following procedure for providing emergency housing assistance.*

## High Risk Households

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.
- Is otherwise categorically eligible and includes a member who is 50 years of age or older.

## Length of Authorization

- Granted in up-to 28-day increments.

## Applying with ESD

- Can apply for emergency housing between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- Can reapply for housing up to 10 days in advance of the end date of their current authorization.

## All Other Eligible Households

## Length of Authorization

- Granted in up-to-4-day increment.

## Applying with ESD

- Can apply for emergency housing between the hours of 12pm and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- Can reapply for housing on the day their current authorization ends.

Procedure is available online:

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

# General Assistance Housing Data as of September 16, 2024

District	Rooms	Households	Adults	Children
Barre District Office	143	139	190	61
Bennington District Office	99	95	125	51
Brattleboro District Office	159	153	193	82
Burlington District Office	207	206	252	84
Hartford District Office	42	41	47	17
Middlebury District Office	7	7	7	<6
Morrisville District Office	20	20	24	14
Newport District Office	13	13	14	<6
Rutland District Office	308	291	373	178
Springfield District Office	38	37	46	19
St Albans District Office	46	46	54	17
St Johnsbury District Office	18	18	25	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>538</b>

# Who Reached 80 days on September 19, 2024

Eligibility Category	Households
Age 65+	5
Court Ordered/Constructive Eviction	28
Disabled (201G-VR)	75
Disabled (SSI/SSDI)	12
Domestic Violence	16
Families with Children	79
Natural Disaster (excluding flood)	6
Pregnant	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>223</b>

Based on preliminary data analysis, it is predicted that another 400+ households will reach their 80 nights by mid-October.

# Emphasis

- Maximum room capacity of 1100 rooms were reached as follows:

Date	Time Cap Reached
September 15th, 2024	4pm
September 16th, 2024	11am
September 17th, 2024	11am
September 18th, 2024	9:45am

- Calls were being received from households who have reached their 80 days, households that needed to renew and brand-new households. Wait times were as follows:

Date	Avg. Wait Time	Total Calls	Calls Answered	Number of calls that were callbacks	Denied Due to Being at Cap
September 15th, 2024	1:07:38	1245	566	238	32
September 16th, 2024	0:28:34	746	636	84	106
September 17th, 2024	0:16:04	639	563	67	152
September 18th, 2024	0:40:36	724	637	77	178
September 19th, 2024	1:07:43	1220	682	319	n/a
September 20th, 2024	0:11:52	694	573	124	n/a

When the cap is not in effect, households are denied for a variety of reasons. The most common denial reasons are not meeting categorical eligibility, having resources sufficient to cover the cost of housing, or already having shelter. On average 20-30 households are denied per day when the cap is not in effect.

# Emphasis

- Last week calls were received from city officials, legislators, advocates, and partners, wanting to discuss and understand Act 113. A common theme was not understanding that there was not an exception for families and children.
- DCF continues to engage with communities around increasing shelter capacity and working with our state and local partners on affordable housing solutions. DCF’s Economic Services Division and the Office of Economic Opportunity have held 4 community meetings with providers since May 2024 to share important updates about the GA Program law changes and shelter funding opportunities.
- DCF also met with town officials from 5 major communities to discuss the additional \$10M shelter funding to help increase capacity in the most needed areas.
- DCF has increased the number of shelter beds as follows and has at least two other projects under development for FY25:

TOTAL	SFY23 Capacity	SFY24 Capacity	SFY25 Capacity	Capacity Preserved & Created with Increased SFY25 Funding	Capacity Anticipated with \$10 Million
Year- Round	506	542	575	89	40 – new total 605
Seasonal	32	45	45	45	40 – new total 85

- Office of Economic Opportunity Award summary can be reviewed here: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/resources/awards>
- We need more permanent affordable housing solutions and more shelters that come with staffing to assist households with removing barriers.
- In the month of July over 300 households and in August over 500 households were not offered a room because the maximum hotel/motel capacity had been reached. On September 16, some of these households were given a room for the first time.

# What's still needed

## Shelters and Affordable Housing in Vermont

The administration will continue to collaborate with communities, cities and towns to increase shelter capacity and to continue to make more housing affordable for Vermonters.