

**Emergency Housing**  
**Notice of Changes**  
**Effective September 3, 2021**

This is to notify interested persons that ESD has made changes to the Emergency Housing rules and its procedures and created a new form to help applicants get disability verification. The updated rules, procedures and forms are posted on the ESD website at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/covid19>. Below is a list of the changes.

- Rule EH-701 and the procedures are updated to include the statement “Right to Apply: All persons interested in applying for emergency housing shall be granted the opportunity to do so.” The procedures are further updated with bullets that state “all applicants who are denied will be provided with a written notice of the decision,” and “the Department may be able to provide assistance in obtaining needed documentation of disability upon request from the applicant and where the applicant has been unable to do so due to their physical mental or other difficulties.”
- Rule EH-720 and the procedures are updated to expand the disability category as follows:  
A household that includes a person with a disability. A person with a disability is:
  1. A person who receives SSI, SSDI, VA disability benefits, Medicaid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (MABD); or
  2. A person whose health care professional or counselor from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides documentation that the individual is unable to work more than an average of 20 hours a week over the next three months due to a disability; or
  3. A person whose health care professional or counselor from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides documentation that the individual was unable to work more than an average of 20 hours a week over the past three months due to a disability.

[You may request housing beyond the 84 nights, 30 days at a time when a disability significantly impairs activities of daily living (ADL), or you or a household member are enrolled in or likely eligible for Choices for Care, Developmental Services, CRT, Brain Injury program, Attendant services, if you are actively working with a service provider to find permanent housing (See EH-755)]

  - There is a new Emergency Housing Disability Verification Form that can be used to establish disability. The form can be downloaded at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CVD19/ESD/201G-Disability-Verification.pdf>.
- EH-720.1 Variances is added to EH-720 and the procedures and provides the following:
  - a. Applicants, participants, and service providers may request a variance for an applicant or participant who is denied under the disability prong in Rule EH-720 if being unsheltered would be particularly dangerous to the applicant or participant’s health and welfare.
  - b. Such a variance request shall include:
    1. a description of the need; and
    2. a description of the unusual risk posed to the individual’s health, safety, or welfare if GA emergency housing is not authorized.
  - c. If the request for a variance is denied, the denial notice must be in writing. The notice shall include the right to request a fair hearing and contact information for Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. The applicant or participant may appeal a denial of a request for a variance to the Human Services Board, and the burden

shall be on the applicant to show an abuse of discretion. The issuance of a variance shall have no precedential effect on any cases or rules.

- There is a new form available that may be used to request a variance. The form can be downloaded at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CVD19/ESD/201G-Variance-Request.pdf>.

### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Ask your ESD worker or call 1-800-479-6151.

### **NEED LEGAL HELP?**

Call 1-800-889-2047 to see if you qualify for free help from Vermont Legal Aid.

### **RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING:**

If you disagree with a decision we made, you may ask for a fair hearing. The Human Services Board will:

- Hold a hearing within 10 days (usually).
- Listen to your side of the story.
- Review the facts fairly and objectively.
- Decide if the decision should be upheld or reversed.

You must ask for a fair hearing within 90 days of getting a notice. To do so, call ESD at 1-800- 479-6151 or the Human Services Board at (802) 828-2536. You can get someone you trust to help you.

### **RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a disability, you may be entitled to free aids & services to help you get benefits. This is called a *reasonable accommodation*. Examples include:

- Having someone write your answers down.
- Giving you documents in other formats. For example: large print, audio, or Braille.
- Having a support person with you when you talk to us.
- Meeting in your home or by phone.
- Giving you more time to get us the documents we need.

Call 1-800-479-6151 if you need this help.

**HAVE QUESTIONS?** Ask your worker or call 1-800-479-6151.

**LEARN MORE:** Go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/covid19>. You can also call 1-800-479-6151 to learn more about Emergency

#### **If you need interpretation services...**

إذا أنت ترغب خدمات الترجمة الفورية اتصل برقم 1-855-247-3092 (Arabic)

Ako su Vam potrebne usluge tumačenja, pozovite 1-855-247-3092. (Bosnian)

စကားပြန် ဝန်ဆောင်မှုလုပ်ငန်းကိုအလိုရှိပါက 1-855-247-3092 သို့ဖုန်းဆက်ခေါ်ပါ။ (Burmese)

Si vous avez besoin de services d'interprétation, appelez le 1-855-247-3092. (French)

Mugihe woba ushaka impfashanyo yo gusigurirwa, hamagara uyu murungo 1-855-247-3092. (Kirundi)

यदि तपाईंलाई दोभाषे सेवाको जरुरत परेमा 1-855-247-3092 मा कल गर्नुहोस्। (Nepali)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay adeegyo turjumaan, wac 1-855-247-3092. (Somali)

Si usted necesita servicios de interpretación, llame al 1-855-247-3092. (Spanish)

Ikiwa unahitaji huduma za ukalimani, piga simu 1-855-247-3092. (Swahili)

Nếu quý vị cần dịch vụ thông ngôn, hãy gọi 1-855-247-3092. (Vietnamese)