

General Assistance Housing Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC) for the 2021-22 Season

In harsh winter weather commencing November 4th, eligibility for temporary shelter through Vermont's General Assistance (GA) and Emergency Assistance (EA) programs will be relaxed to encourage persons who are homeless and without adequate financial resources to seek safe shelter.

- A. Eligibility for temporary housing will be relaxed when any of the following conditions exist, or are anticipated to exist, at any time during the overnight hours of 6:00PM – 6:00AM based on the town the district office is located.
 - 1. Temperatures or Wind Chill are *less than 20 degrees* (F); or
 - 2. Temperatures are *less than 32 degrees* (F) with a *higher than 50%* chance of precipitation projected.

- B. To ensure AWC is consistently applied throughout the state, the following practice will be used:
 - 1. The General Assistance (GA) program team will review the forecast, using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Weather Service, for the entire state to determine where and when AWC will be in effect. The ESD public website will have updated determinations and statuses regarding AWC conditions.
 - 2. To ensure consistency, ESD will use the forecast for the town in which the District Office is located. All towns served by that District Office will have their AWC based on the determination made for that District Office.

- C. The income limit applies to AWC housing, pursuant to rule EH-735.

# People in Household	Maximum Gross Monthly Income (185% of FPL)	# People in Household	Maximum Gross Monthly Income (185% of FPL)
1	\$1,986	6	\$5,486
2	\$2,686	7	\$6,186
3	\$3,386	8	\$6,886
4	\$4,086	9	\$7,586
5	\$4,786	10	\$8,286

- D. The resource limit of \$2,250 in available resources applies to AWC housing, pursuant to rule EH-745.

- E. Households are not required to contribute their own income towards the cost of Emergency Housing.

- F. If a household applying for or granted temporary housing under AWC loses their temporary housing at a shelter, hotel or similar establishment, the household will be ineligible for AWC housing pursuant to rule EH-765. ***Please note the Period of Ineligibility does not apply to families with children.***

If a household applying for temporary housing under AWC refused available shelter space and has not requested and received a reasonable accommodation (form 218M), the household will be ineligible for further temporary housing for a period of 30 days beginning with the date the applicant refused available shelter space, absent good cause.

If a household does not check in at an ESD District Office the following business day after being housed by 211, the household will be ineligible for further temporary housing until they contact ESD to apply for temporary housing.

- G. Although there is no cap on the number of nights temporary housing can be authorized under AWC, nights received under AWC will count toward the maximum number of nights that can be received pursuant to rule EH-700.
- H. District Offices should refer each applicant requesting housing under AWC to the local Coordinated Entry Lead Agency.

11/2021