

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER

ACTIVATION OF EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER MEASURES – 14-Dec.-2020

BACKGROUND: The Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families (DCF) supports emergency shelter beds and transitional beds for Vermonters experiencing homelessness. When these local programs are full, the DCF augments this grant-funded capacity with motel vouchers through the Economic Services Division (ESD) General/Emergency Assistance Program.

PURPOSE: During extreme cold weather, DCF/ESD will relax some eligibility criteria for motel beds.

CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATION: The criteria to activate **Emergency Cold Weather Measures** is when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Severe Weather Alert that forecasts the temperature or wind chill will be -20 degrees Fahrenheit or colder.

The determination will be made by the Commissioner for the DCF and the Deputy Commissioner of the ESD to take Emergency Cold Weather Measures. At such time, the ESD will suspend implementation of the following General/Emergency Assistance Program rules for the duration of the Severe Weather Alert:

- GA-50.1 Refusal of Shelter Space or Asked to Leave a Shelter
- GA-60 Voluntarily Left a Place Where You Could Have Stayed
- GA-120 Period of Ineligibility

NOTIFICATION: To learn if Emergency Cold Weather Measures are in effect check the ESD website at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd> or call toll free **1-800-479-6151**.

IMPORTANT: TURN OVER & READ THE OTHER SIDE

RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING

If you disagree with a decision ESD made, you may ask for an expedited 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 the Department 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 program modifications, and/or free aids & services to help you get benefits. This is called *reasonable accommodations*. 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 ESD the documents that are needed.

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

NEED LEGAL HELP?

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

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call 1-800-479-6151

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 murongo 1-855-247-3092. (Kirundi)

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

Haddii aad u baahan tahay adeegyada 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)