

General Assistance Emergency Housing and Office of Economic Opportunity Shelter Programs



Presentation for joint meeting with:
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Economic Development
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Intersection of DCF Services for Vermonters Experiencing Homelessness & Needs Related to Substance Use



General Assistance Emergency Housing (“motel voucher”)

General Assistance and Emergency Housing program has a Shelter First goal.

Provides emergency housing in a hotel/motel when no alternative shelter is available

Eligibility/access through Economic Services or 2-1-1 (after hours)

- “Catastrophic” up to 84 nights or “Vulnerable” up to 28 nights, depending on eligibility
- Adverse Weather Conditions during winter months
- Cohort, refers to a group of clients who were living in a hotel/motel in June 30th, 2023 and were granted an extension to stay in the hotel/motel through April 1st, 2024.

Households By District

This is the current district data on all households in the GA Housing program as of 1/15/2024

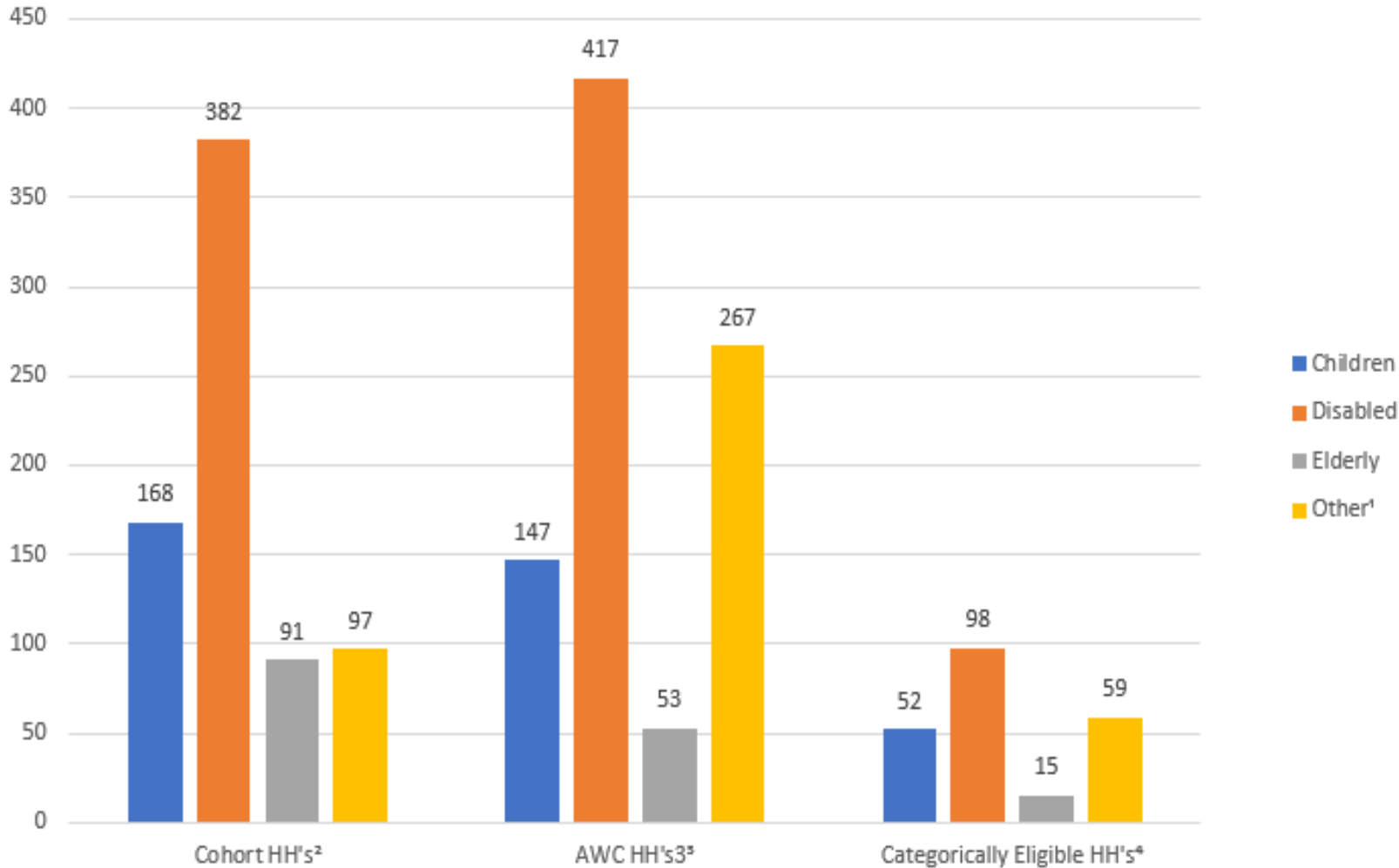
Housing as of 01/15/2024

District Office	Total Eligible Households	Cohort Households	Categorically Eligible	Adverse Weather Conditions
Barre District Office	167	81	19	67
Bennington District Office	183	78	13	92
Brattleboro District Office	218	79	30	109
Burlington District Office	310	114	47	149
Hartford District Office	81	38	8	35
Middlebury District Office	18	6	5	7
Morrisville District Office	22	12	4	6
Newport District Office	24	7	5	12
Rutland District Office	399	180	33	186
Springfield District Office	60	25	10	25
St Albans District Office	71	17	11	43
St Johnsbury District Office	66	10	8	48
Total	1619	647	193	779

Program Eligibility based on Category

Housing as of 01/15/2024			
Eligibility Category	Total Eligible Households	Eligible Cohort Households	Eligible Non-Cohort Households
Age 60+	52	48	4
Death of a Spouse or Minor Child	1	0	1
Disabled (SSI/SSDI)	407	357	50
Domestic Violence	68	25	43
Families with Children	163	145	18
Health Code Violations/Eviction	129	61	68
Natural Disaster (Fire, Flood, Hurricane)	12	3	9
Pregnant	8	8	0
Vulnerable Population Points	0	0	0
Adverse Weather Conditions	779	0	779
Total	1619	647	972

Eligibility Category: (as of 1/15/2024)



¹ "Other" represents households with no children, no SSI/SSDI, and are under 65.

² Cohort Households are eligible through 3/31/24.

³ Adverse Weather Conditions are eligible through 3/15/24.

⁴ Households categorically eligible are housed for 28 or 84 days. The end date of their eligibility is based on their individual situation. Households that exhaust their 28 or 84 days prior to 3/15/24 will be eligible for housing under Adverse Weather Conditions.

****Note**** Household counts are duplicated if the household meets criteria under multiple categories. Example--the household has a member with a disability and a child they would be counted in each category

Summary of One-Time Investments AHS

Activity	Allocation
Administrative Salaries, Data Collection and Management	\$224,576
Homelessness Outreach and Support	\$1,550,000
Panel Management	\$2,135,000
Shelter Expansion and Rapid Re-housing	\$2,664,000
Shelter Planning Grants	\$480,000
Hotel Security	\$630,000
Temporary Shelters for April - June	\$2,316,424
Total	\$10,000,000

Summary of One-Time Investments DCF - OEO

Eligible Activity	Award Amount
Shelter	\$ 1,550,032.00
RRH	\$ 52,776.00
Financial Assistance	\$ 3,199,000.00
Homelessness Prevention	\$ 120,526.00
Coordinated Entry (Assessment, Housing Navigation)	\$ 69,016.00
HMIS	\$ 8,650.00
Total	\$ 5,000,000.00

HOP Grant Status update, cont.

One-time HOP funding was prioritized for:

- Flexible Client Financial Assistance to help homeless or at-risk households stabilize in housing (e.g., security deposits, rental arrears, transportation, fees, etc.)
 - \$4.9m total with \$3.1m from one-time funding, a \$2.5m increase over SFY23 (which was also supported in part by one-time funding)
- Day shelter expansion to address unsheltered homelessness, including food
- Staffing to expand housing navigation services
- Expanding rapid re-housing

The Annual [HOP Award Summary](#) is available online:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/resources/awards> (Updated November 14, 2023)

New Projects in Communities

Expanded Emergency Shelter Capacity

New/Expanded:

- 2 seasonal shelters --> year-round (Burlington and Morrisville Districts), 31 HH (9 new HH)
- New & Expanded projects, 12 HH (Rutland, Barre and Springfield Districts)
- New Since August: 15 HH Seasonal Shelter (Barre District); 4 HH Young Adult Shelter (Bratt District); 24 HH Shelter (St. J District); 30 HH Seasonal Shelter (Burlington District)

Under Consideration/In Development: 3 potential projects could add about 100 HH capacity statewide (Brattleboro, Rutland and Hartford) between **SFY 24-26**

Day Shelter Capacity

New/Expanded: 4 projects (Burlington, Barre, Rutland & Morrisville Districts)

Street Outreach Expansion

DMH: 6 projects, many multi-agency (Burlington, Rut, Benning, Barre, Bratt & St. Albans)

April Temporary Shelters

- 5 Communities – Central Vermont, Burlington, Bennington, Brattleboro, and Rutland.
- Central Vermont
 - Active discussions with multiple providers
- Brattleboro
 - Active discussion with Winston Prouty (approximately 20 families (40-50 people) for 12 months)
- Bennington, Burlington and Rutland
 - As necessary, explore options such as Mobile Shelters or other short-term temporary options.

Reference material following

Emergency Shelter Capacity

County	Total Household Capacity
Addison	62
Bennington	30
Caledonia	19
Chittenden	164
Franklin	14
Lamoille	19
Orleans	6
Rutland	11
Washington	92
Windham	46
Windsor	34
Grand Total	488

Note: Vermont is a shelter first state. That means these beds are all filled before someone is offered General Assistance Emergency Housing.



High costs for low return

The current hotel/motel program is expensive:

\$132 Average nightly rate the week of 12/26/2023

That's about \$4,000/month without providing any services.

Common services at shelters include:

Case Management	Ability to receive mail
Housing Navigation	Access to a computer
Warm meals	Connection to Recovery coaching
Laundry facility	Job Readiness workshops
Health/mental health care	Substance use treatment

Overall SFY2024 and Act 81 Budget Status

Year to Date Spend as of 11/30/23: \$15,979,394

Year to Date Hotel Authorizations 11/30/23: \$27,712,171

Authorization	Budget
Act 78	\$18,884,610
Act 81	\$25,395,141
Base	\$7,500,000
Total	\$51,779,751