

Further clarification from Vermont Legal Aid regarding proposed budget SFY22 budget language for emergency housing submitted by the Department for Children and Families:

Vermont Legal Aid believes that every Vermonter experiencing homelessness should be entitled to shelter, either through a program operated by a community-based agency, or through the General Assistance program. Given that strong belief, within the General Assistance workgroup, Vermont Legal Aid flagged its fundamental disagreement with this language: “The assistance provided under this section is not an entitlement and may be discontinued should there not be sufficient funds.” However, based on the good faith understanding that the Department for Children and Families will seek additional funding through the budget adjustment process if more funding is needed to address the shelter needs of vulnerable Vermonters experiencing homelessness, Vermont Legal Aid is not disputing the use of this budget language for fiscal year 2022.