

Sec. E.318.XX. PARENT CHILD CENTERS NETWORK; EMPLOYEE SALARIES  
AND BENEFITS

It is the intent of the General Assembly increased funding appropriated in fiscal year 2024 to the parent child centers shall be used to increase employee salaries and benefits, and not for new or expanded programming.

Sec. E.318.XX REPORT; EMERGENCY HOUSING

On or before January 1, 2024, the Department for Children and Families shall develop and submit a plan to coordinate and deliver crisis standards, including for emergency housing and shelter with strong connections to housing, health, and employment services, to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare. In developing the plan, the Department shall consult with stakeholders who specialize in homelessness prevention and mitigation, including those organizations who participated in developing the Vermont Roadmap to End Homelessness developed pursuant to 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. B.1102(a).

Sec.XXX. HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

(a) On or before September 1, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall convene a working group, including individuals with lived experience of homelessness, local and statewide representatives of the Continuums of Care Program, representatives of housing- and homelessness-related organizations, a member from the House Committees on General and Housing, a member from the House Committee on Human Services, a member from the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs, and a member from the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to review, develop, and provide recommendations on Vermont's homelessness response and prevention programs and governance system, including any measures of success that incorporate recent and relevant assessments and statewide plans.

(b)(1) On or before January 15, 2024, the working group established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit its initial findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to align with the federal goal to reduce homelessness by 25 percent by 2025, in accordance with the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, including strategies to:

(A) address racial and other disparities, as well as the multiplier effects of two or more concurrent risk factors, among people experiencing homelessness;

(B) justify State and local action through research of quantitative and qualitative data, including the perspectives of individuals who have or are currently experiencing homelessness;

(C) eliminate the silos between State and local governments and organizations; public, private, and philanthropic sectors; and individuals who have or are currently experiencing homelessness;

(D) increase the supply of and access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing and tailored supports for individuals at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness;

(E) improve response systems to meet the urgent crisis of homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness; and

(F) reduce the risk of housing instability for households most likely to experience homelessness.

(2) On or before January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit an interim report on its work pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(3) On or before January 1, 2025, the working group convened in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a final report on its work pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing

and to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Economic Development,  
Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE HOUSING; ADVERSE WEATHER  
CONDITIONS

(a) The Commissioner for Children and Families may, by policy, provide temporary housing for a limited duration in adverse weather conditions when appropriate shelter space is not available.

(b) In fiscal year 2024, eligible households that seek emergency housing shall receive it, regardless of the number of nights previously received or adverse weather conditions. The Department shall use the income and resource eligibility criteria in effect as of June 2021. A household is eligible under this subsection if it meets one or more of the following:

(i) a household that lost its housing due to a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, or hurricane;

(ii)(I) a household that has a member who has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or

(II) a household that has a member who has experienced a dangerous or life-threatening incident related to violence against the member that either occurred within the member's home or caused the member to reasonably believe that the member was at risk of further harm if the member remained in the home;

(iii) a household with a child or children who are either under 18 years of age or who are 18 or 19 years of age and attending secondary school on full-time basis or an equivalent level of vocational or technical training;

(iv) a household that has a member who is 60 years of age or older;

(v) a household that has a member who receives SSI or SSDI;

(vi) a household that has a member who is pregnant;

(vii) a household that is pursuing legal resolution of violations of the Rental Housing Health Code through the Department of Health or appropriate local officials; or

(viii) a household that has been physically barred from entering their residence through an intentional act of the landlord.