

1 Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

2 (a) In fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027, while the General Assembly is
3 not in session the Emergency Board shall have the authority to transfer part of
4 the appropriation in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2) to the
5 Department for Children and Families for the purpose of assisting a housing
6 authority to avoid termination of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
7 Development (HUD) Section 8 housing choice vouchers that would otherwise
8 be lost as the result of federal action.

9 (b) If funds are transferred for this purpose, they may be made available at
10 the request of a housing authority for one of the following purposes:

11 (1) to maintain a current housing assistance payment in use or to prevent
12 the retirement of a housing assistance payment currently in use by the housing
13 authority; or

14 (2) with prior written approval from HUD, to provide funding to a
15 housing authority in order to prevent the termination of assistance to current
16 housing choice voucher participants.

17 (c) If funds are transferred for this purpose, an affirmative vote of the
18 majority of a housing authority's commissioners shall be required prior to a
19 housing authority requesting funds.

20 (d) A housing authority shall notify the Department for Children and
21 Families of its intent to request funds and submit a report on its financial need,
22 including evidence that the request conforms to applicable HUD

1 requirements and is a necessary and proper expense, to the Department on
2 or before April 15, 2026.

3 (e) On or before May 1, 2026, the Department for Children and Families,
4 in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community
5 Development, shall:

6 (1) establish procedures for validating that such expenditures conform to
7 applicable HUD requirements and are a necessary and proper expense prior to
8 issuing funds; and

9 (2) establish guidelines to ensure that funds are distributed based upon
10 need.

11 (f) If funds are transferred for this purpose, the Department for Children
12 and Families shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its September 2026
13 meeting and submit a written report on or before January 15, 2027, to the
14 House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of the
15 appropriation.

16 (g) As used in this section, “housing authority” has the same meaning as in
17 24 V.S.A. § 4002.