

Cole/McGill; Draft 2.1  
BAA; 1.22.2025

1 Sec. A. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. E.321 is amended to read:

2 Sec. E.321 GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY HOUSING

3 \* \* \*

4 (b)(1) General Assistance Emergency Housing shall be provided in a  
5 community-based shelter whenever possible. If there is inadequate  
6 community-based shelter space available within the Agency of Human  
7 Services district in which the household presents itself, the household shall be  
8 provided emergency housing in a hotel or motel within the district, if available,  
9 until adequate community-based shelter space becomes available in the  
10 district. The utilization of hotel and motel rooms pursuant to this subdivision  
11 shall be capped at 1,100 rooms per night between September 15, 2024 through  
12 November 30, 2024 ~~and between April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.~~

13 \* \* \*

14 (3) The Department shall provide emergency winter housing to  
15 households meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection (a) of this section  
16 between December 1, 2024 and ~~March 31,~~ June 30, 2025. Emergency housing  
17 in a hotel or motel provided pursuant to this subdivision shall not count toward  
18 the maximum days of eligibility per 12-month period provided in subdivision  
19 (2) of this subsection.

20 \* \* \*

21 Sec. B. REACH UP; INFLATION RESPONSE STIPEND

22 (a) In fiscal year 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall  
23 distribute a one-time inflation response stipend of \$100.00 to each household

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1 participating in the Reach Up program using the program's fiscal year 2025  
2 case savings. Any remaining fiscal year 2025 case savings after the inflation  
3 response stipends have been distributed shall be carried forward to fiscal year  
4 2026.

5 (b) An inflation response stipend distributed pursuant to this section shall  
6 be excluded from the calculation of the individual's taxable income as defined  
7 by 32 V.S.A. § 5811(21) and the individual's adjusted gross income as defined  
8 by 26 U.S.C. § 62, including for the purpose of determining eligibility for  
9 other public assistance programs.

10 Sec. C. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

11 DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS

12 In fiscal year 2025, the Department for Children and Families shall fully  
13 utilize the State's allocation of discretionary exemptions in the Supplemental  
14 Nutrition Assistance Program to the extent permitted by federal regulation for  
15 the purpose of proactively extending benefits to individuals who would  
16 otherwise experience a disruption of benefits.

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