

# Technical Amendments: Income Eligibility of Automotive Emissions Repair Assistance Program

February 3, 2026



Automotive Emissions Repair  
Assistance Program



# Automotive Emissions Repair Assistance Program (AERAP)



- 2021 Legislation provides financial assistance to low-income Vermonters with vehicles in need of emissions-related repairs associated with failing the annual Vermont motor vehicle inspection.
  - Subject vehicles include cars and light-duty trucks that are 16 model years old or less.
- Establishment of the emissions repair assistance program provides relief to low-income Vermonters while protecting the air quality of all Vermonters.
- Program launched in August 2024.

# Current Applicant Eligibility

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- **Household income must be 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or less.**
- *Vehicle must be registered in Vermont.*
- *Vehicle must have passed the safety check but failed the emissions portion of the State vehicle inspection within 30 days of applying.*
- *Vehicle must have not failed the emissions check of the State vehicle inspection due to readiness or for having a tampered emissions control system.*
- *Vehicles covered by their emissions warranty are not eligible.*

# Proposed Change – Income Eligibility



- From gross household income to an individual's adjusted gross income (AGI) considering number of dependents claimed
  - Decreases amount of sensitive, personal information collected
  - Efficient, streamlined auditing
  - More applicable – individual vs. household
  - Remains comparable to LIHEAP income criteria

# Proposed Change – Sliding Scale

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- Current program offers up to \$2,500 for emissions repair.
- Proposed sliding scale would expand eligibility.
  - Income: 185% FPL, maximum voucher amount: \$2,500
  - Income: 250% FPL, lower voucher amount: \$1,875
  - Income: 300% FPL, lowest voucher amount:\$1,250