

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



- **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