

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
Chittenden Unit
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www.vermontjudiciary.org



CIVIL DIVISION
Case No. 24-CV-00999

Groundworks Collaborative, Inc. et al v. Vermont Agency of Human Services et al

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

On Plaintiffs' Motion for Temporary Order and Preliminary Injunction, and upon its review of the documents and evidence submitted, the court finds that the Plaintiff class will suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage from any actions Defendants may take to terminate their General Assistance Emergency Housing Program benefits before the parties can be fully heard on the motion. The injuries faced by the Plaintiff class are the loss of emergency housing without due process of law. For that reason, issuance of this temporary restraining order is warranted.

1. For purposes of this TRO, the plaintiff class is conditionally certified as follows: all individuals who applied for and received General Assistance Emergency Housing Program benefits at any time on or after September 1, 2024 and either (a) continue to receive such benefits or (b) were subsequently terminated, not renewed, or informed that they were ineligible. This class certification is only for purposes of this TRO and may be altered or amended upon motion by any party or on the court's own motion.

2. Defendants shall not deprive any member of the plaintiff class presently receiving General Assistance Emergency Housing benefits of those benefits without due process of law. Due process of law shall include at a minimum the following:

- a. Written notice that includes the factual and legal basis for the Department's decision to terminate benefits, including at reauthorization;
- b. Delivered to the individual using a means reasonably calculated to be received by the individual;
- c. Delivered sufficiently in advance of any termination to afford a reasonable opportunity to dispute the termination; and

d. Including notice of the right to seek an expedited appeal to the Human Services Board.

3. This order shall remain in effect until the hearing to be scheduled on Plaintiffs' request for preliminary injunction. If before that hearing, Defendants propose a plan for how to provide due process, as described above, and Plaintiffs agree with the plan as proposed by Defendants, the court will adopt the plan and incorporate it into a preliminary injunction, without the need for hearing.

Electronically signed pursuant to V.R.E.F. 9(d): 4/30/2025 4:54 PM



Samuel Hoar, Jr.
Superior Court Judge