

SFY 2027 SEASON



2026/27 Information Session

Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program
Municipal Support Grant Program

Tuesday, September 15, 2026



GetWarmNowVT is a project of Vermont Interfaith Action and Green Mountain Justice for the administration, coordination, and operation of Vermont's SFY2027 Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program and Municipal Support Grant Program funded by the State of Vermont.



Agenda



1 Welcome, Purpose, and Team Introductions

Team introductions (Attendees, please add your name and organization in the chat)

2 Programs

Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program (ECWSP)
and the **Municipal Support Grant Program (MSGP)**

3 Partners

AHS Field Services, 2-1-1, DFS, VDH MRC, VDART, DMH, DCF OEO

4 Questions and Discussion



How We Got Here

From one season of lessons last year to two programs this year

- SFY 2026
 - Seven shelters, six regions, 1,390 bed-nights of warmth
 - Two tiers, -10°F and 0°F, and the optional tier drove 65%
 - Threshold was too cold; activation warning window too short
- SFY 2027
 - Act 143 set one warmer standard and added the MSGP
 - Get Warm Now VT, a VIA and GMJ partnership, administers and operates both programs
 - Our aim: more warm, safe, welcoming spaces with more connection in more communities

PROGRAMS

Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program





Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program

What the program does:

- Reimburses communities for creating safe, warm, welcoming spaces between December 1 and March 31* for neighbors in need
- Activates at 10°F wind chill or below for 4 or more hours
- No “regions,” so reimbursement/activations available where the cold is
- Low barrier: no ID, intake is name and date of birth
- Open to nonprofits, faith communities, towns, ...
- Reimburses staffing, supplies, permits, insurance, etc.
- Applications due October 1, notices targeted for October 15

* Season may expand if threshold temperatures occur outside this window



Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program

What is different this season

- Baseline activations* at 10°F WC per zip code of subgrant shelter (replacing last year's two tiers)
- Expect 25 to 30 activation nights, more in northern latitudes
- Activation notices 72 to 84 hours out, with no rescind once given
- Web-based system provides info, applications and forms, dashboard for activations, etc.
- Earlier application window, so sites can plan, train, and staff
- Reimbursement template, with monthly requests
- Orientation Conference in October

*Applicants may propose a colder threshold for their operations.
Should applications exceed funds available, applications planning 10°F WC will be prioritized

PROGRAMS

Municipal Support Grant Program





Municipal Support Grant Program

New this year under Act 143

- Grants to municipalities that plan to shelter neighbors during NWS Cold Weather Advisories (-20°WC)
- Open to any municipality or multi-town alliance
- Reimburses shelter outfitting, supplies, transit, etc. costs
- Grants awarded based on community need, available funds, and proposed use
- Subgrant municipalities responsible for opening their shelters upon NWS Cold Weather Advisory
- Applications due October 1, reimbursement funding through June 30, 2027

How to Apply



Two Ways to Apply

Due October 1, awards targeted October 15

1 Apply online at getwarmnowvt.org/apply

1. Sign in with your email and a six-digit code
2. Join your organization, or register a new one
3. Start the ECWSP or MSGP application, eight short steps
4. Drafts save as you go, and you can message reviewers

2 Or download the form and email it

1. On Providers, download the ECWSP or MSGP application PDF
2. Email the completed form to applications@getwarmnowvt.org

We will help with every application. If in doubt, APPLY.

Key Partners' Information

PARTNERS

DCF Office of Economic Opportunity

DCF OEO



DCF Office of Economic Opportunity

- *The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is situated within the Department for Children and Families, within the Agency of Human Services*
- *OEO administers the funding for the FY27 Extreme Cold Weather Shelter and Municipal Support Grant Program.*
- *OEO provides the following:*
 - *Fiscal and programmatic oversight of the grant and program, including performance management.*
 - *Training and Technical Assistance related to program design, standards and requirements, eligibility criteria, and application and budget review.*
 - *Coordination between this program, year-round, and seasonal shelter projects as necessary.*

For additional information regarding OEO Programs, please visit: [OEO Programs | Department for Children and Families](#)

PARTNERS

Agency of Human Services Field Services

AHS FS

PARTNERS

United Way of Vermont Vermont 2-1-1





211 IS THE FRONT DOOR

211's role is to organize, and share Get Warm Now's grantee resources with our clients – and to make sure people can find you.



On Our Website

A quick link to Get Warm Now's website goes live on vermont211.org.



On GWNVT's Website

A button in the 211 online directory – and a widget on getwarmnowvt.org



HOURS OF COVERAGE

Housing support

VT 211 connects clients to housing resources every day of the year, even weekends and holidays.



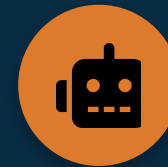
8 AM - 10 PM

7 days a week, 365 days a year – VT 211 is staffed to connect clients to housing resources.



10 PM - 8 AM

211 staff don't answer phones overnight, but our searchable database is available 24/7.



Overnight Pilot: IVA

We're piloting an Intelligent Virtual Assistant (IVA) during this window – more details for grantees at the October orientation meeting.



REACHING THE RESOURCE TEAM

Stay current, and you're always easy to find

211 always needs the most accurate info about your program – notify us and the GWNVT team right away about hours or location changes. Here's how to reach the resource team directly:



Call 211, Press 4

Leave a message for the resource team with updates or changes.



Email – Coming Soon

A dedicated email address for the resource team will be set up before cold weather season begins.

PARTNERS

Department of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety





Department of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety

- The Division of Fire Safety is the primary code and standard enforcement agency for Vermont.
- Our role is early identification of locations, evaluation of structures with the ultimate goal of working with agencies to provide safe and healthy emergency housing.
- The Division provides guidance, inspections, documentation, assistance with code interpretations and will assist with permitting process and occupancy of structures once codes have been met.
- The Division of Fire Safety maintains a web site www.firesafety.Vermont.gov with regionalized contact information but Shawn Goodell is a point of contact that can assist with connections.
- Regional Manager Shawn Goodell Shawn.Goodell@Vermont.gov or 802-760-8827

PARTNERS

Vermont Department of Health Medical Reserve Corps

VDH MRC

Vermont Medical Reserve Corps



- The Medical Reserve Corps is a national network of 267,000 volunteers whose mission is to improve the health and safety of their communities. Vermont has eight MRC Units affiliated with the Vermont Department of Health, whose focus is medical surge, community education and auxiliary communications.
- We are an AHS and ARC partner for regional shelters, providing supplemental staffing.
- For VIA-GMJ supported shelters, MRC can offer critical training prior to sheltering season that would benefit a municipality/partner organizations' local shelter volunteer pool, such as CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Psychological First Aid.
- May be able to provide supplemental staffing for non-medical roles, health screening and first aid on site at local shelters, as available after primary commitment to regional sheltering is fulfilled. All volunteers are background checked and trained with skills beneficial in shelters.
- Activated by contacting VEM Watch Officer at 800-347-0488, who will notify MRC.
- For more information on Vermont MRC, email MRC@vermont.gov or visit OnCallforVT.org

PARTNERS

Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team

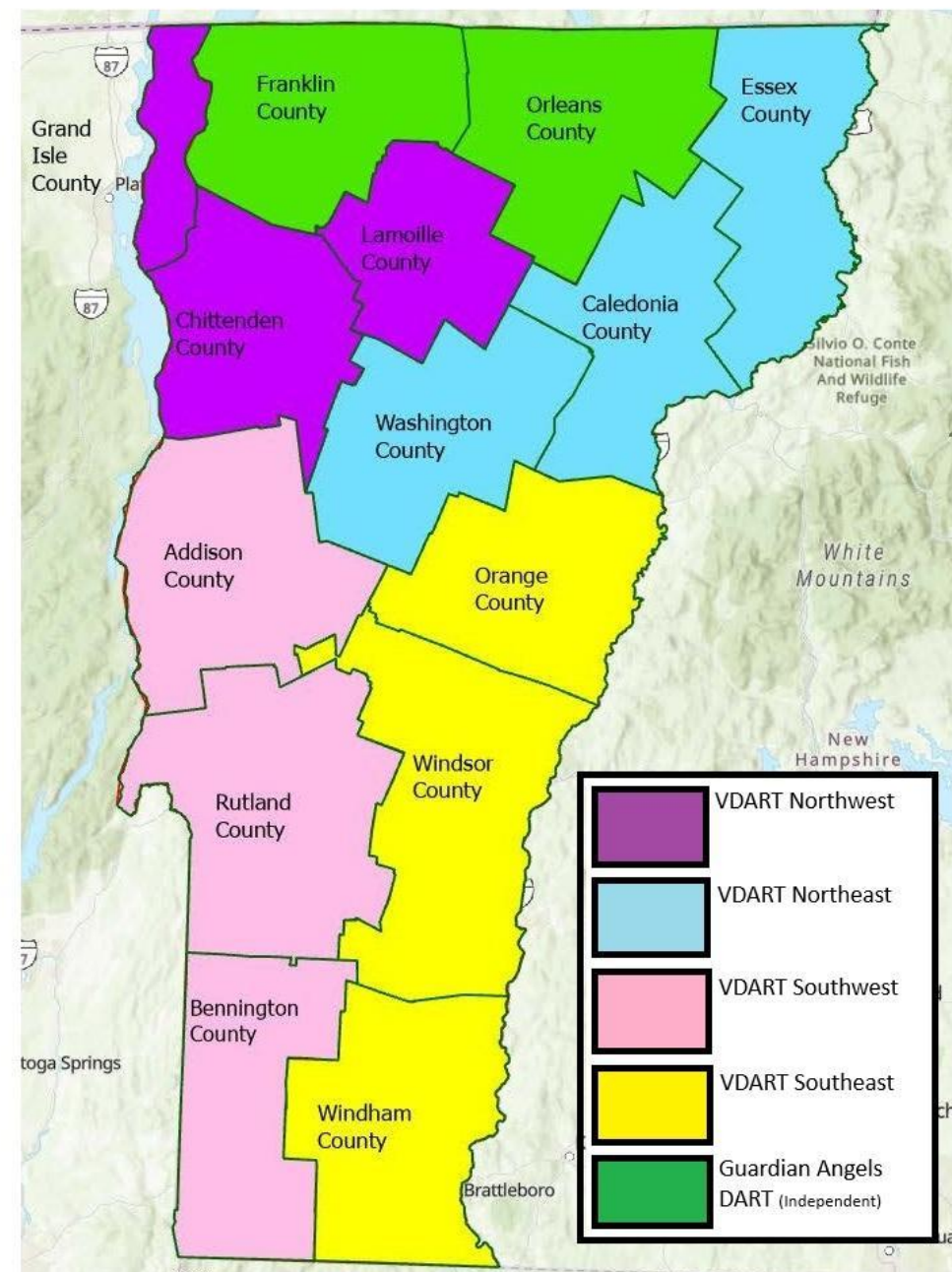
VDART



Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team

- ❑ Established in 2007 after Hurricane Katrina
- ❑ All volunteer
- ❑ State coverage with regional teams
- ❑ Activated by VAAFM (State Veterinarian is team lead)

Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team Regions



VDART's Scope of Assistance

Planning & Mitigation

Review local and state operational plans & shelter blueprints for animals

Participate in drills and exercises

Provide support for regional animal response teams

Public Education

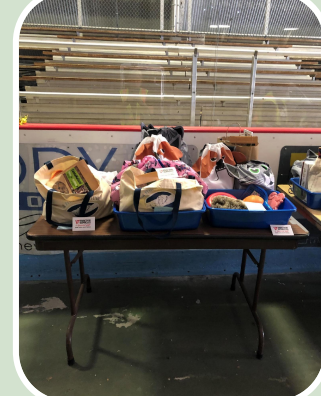
Municipal Equipment Grants



VDART tabling at the Wilmington Flea Market

Scope of Assistance

Response & Recovery



Assess
animal
needs in
the field if
requested
by
authorities

Operate or
support
pet
friendly
shelters

Coordinate
veterinary
care at
emergency
shelters

Coordinate
evacuation
support for
animals

Support
for
relocated
animal
facilities

Support
for pet
families
after the
disaster

+ Contact us

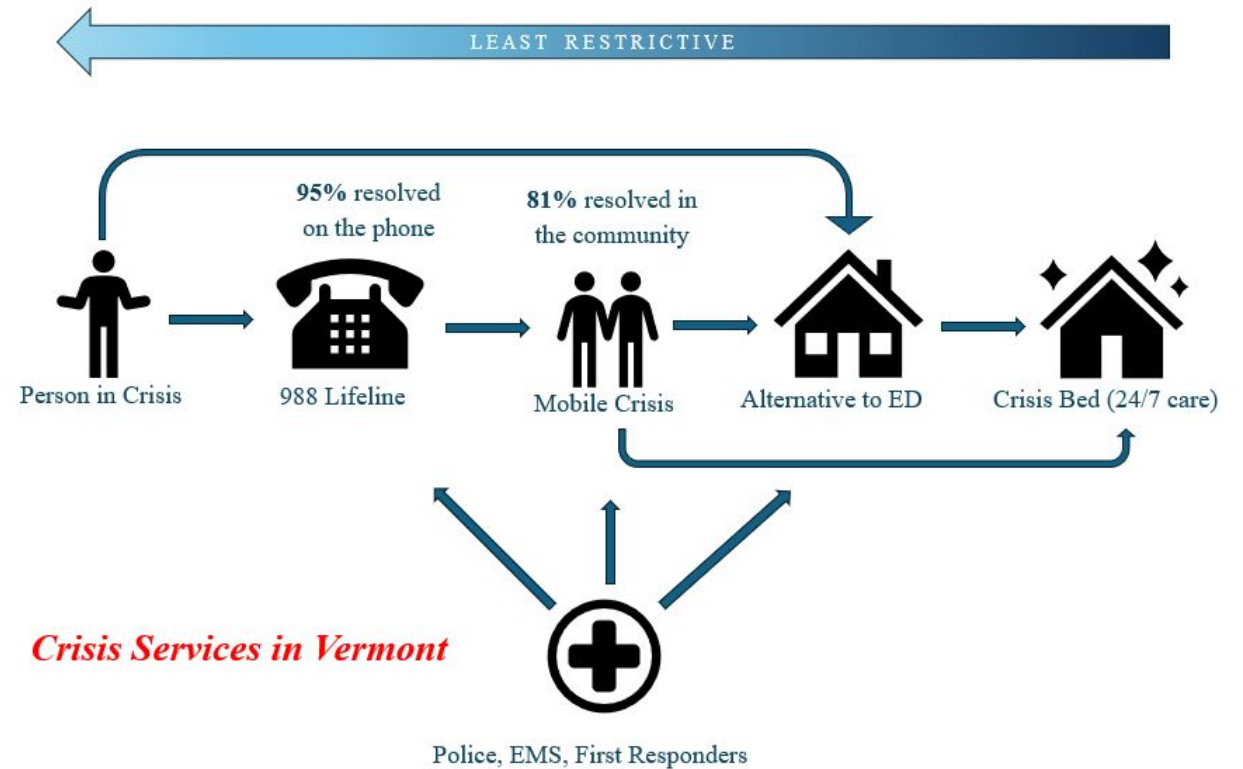
Joanne Bourbeau
Board Chair, VDART
info@vermontdart.org
301-529-3378 (cell)

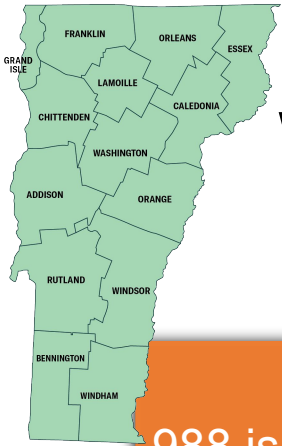
PARTNERS

Department of Mental Health

DMH

This is the crisis continuum of care within the context of the entire mental health system. In Vermont, someone experiencing a mental health crisis can seek treatment at any point of access.





What is 988?

988 is the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that you can call, text, or chat 24/7. You don't have to be in crisis to call if you need someone to talk to.

NKHS and NCSS are Vermont's two 988 call centers

When calling / texting / chatting 988, individuals will be connected directly to a crisis counselor. No paging system. No calls back. Immediately connected every single time.

988 can connect callers with a mobile crisis team (MCT). All services are client centered and coordination with the person is key.

The MCT can go out and assess the situation and most times, resolve the crisis without further intervention. In less than 0.5% of cases, law enforcement (LE) or other first responders are involved.

Questions, Answers, and Discussion

WEBSITE

getwarmnowvt.org

Now: Program info and guidance,
application, and contact info

Soon: Training links, references, and
dashboard reflecting subgrantee
shelter info and status

APPLICATIONS

**applications@
getwarmnowvt.org**

Send completed applications here

QUESTIONS

**contact@
getwarmnowvt.org**

Anything else, any time



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