

State of Vermont

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
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Agency of Human Services

MEMO

To: Licensed Level III Residential Care Home and
Assisted Living Residence Providers
Developmental Disabilities Services Providers
Brain Injury Program Service Providers
Adult Family Care Authorized Agencies

From: Angela McMann, ASD Director 
Jennifer Garabedian, DDS Director

Date: December 23, 2025

Room and Board Memo – 2026 Standards Update

This memo is to communicate the new room & board and minimum personal spending amounts allowed under the DAIL room & board standards. The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) has been notified that effective January 1, 2026, SSI benefits will increase by \$27 to reflect an increase in the cost of living (COLA). This will be divided by increasing the personal spending amount by \$7, and the room and board amount by \$20. Please refer to the accompanying tables for the exact amounts based on the setting.

As a reminder, providers must ensure that individuals retain the required minimum personal spending amount listed in the table. **However, providers may choose to charge a person less for room and board payment, so the resident may retain a greater personal needs spending allowance.**

See also **Attachment A** (page 4) of this memo, which provides clarification on items included in room and board. While Licensed Level III Homes are expected to follow the guidance outlined in the DAIL Room and Board Memo, **Attachment A is not applicable to Licensed Level III Homes**. To determine which items should and should not be included in room and board, Licensed Level III Homes should continue to adhere to the [Residential Care Home Licensing Regulations](#). **All Shared Living Provider contracts must include a copy of this memo.**



Providers must also give residents proper notice of any change in room and board charges according to applicable licensing regulations and program standards.

Please contact your applicable state government program staff with questions.

C: ASD Staff
DDSD Staff
DLP Staff



2026 Room and Board Tables:

Developmental Services

Description	Total SSI 2026	Room & Board	Minimum Personal Spending
Unlicensed Residential Care Home (also called <i>Board and Care Home</i> or <i>Developmental Home</i> or <i>Shared Living</i>)	\$1099.60	\$846.65	\$252.95
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level III without ACCS</i>	\$1261.13	\$1011.63	\$249.50
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level IV/TCR</i>	\$1233.62	\$976.43	\$257.19
Independent Living	\$1049.68	n/a	n/a

Section 6.2 of the Developmental Services Regulations specifies that the above designation shall be full and complete payment for room and board for people receiving residential services funded through the home and community-based waiver. The same section governs individuals with private means to pay room and board.

Brain Injury Program Services

Description	Total SSI 2026	Room & Board	Minimum Personal Spending
Unlicensed Residential Care Home (also called <i>Board and Care Home</i> or <i>Developmental Home</i> or <i>Shared Living</i>)	\$1099.60	\$846.65	\$252.95
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level III without ACCS</i>	\$1261.13	\$1011.63	\$249.50
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level IV/TCR</i>	\$1233.62	\$976.43	\$257.19
Independent Living	\$1049.68	n/a	n/a

Choices for Care – Adult Family Care

Description	Total SSI 2026	Room & Board	Minimum Personal Spending
Adult Family Care Home	\$1099.60	\$846.65	\$252.95

Assistive Community Care Services (includes CFC Enhanced Residential Care)

Description	Total SSI 2026	Room & Board	Minimum Personal Spending
Licensed Level III Residential Care Home and Assisted Living Residences with ACCS <i>*Residents living in a private room with income above SSI may be charged room & board <u>up to 85% of their net income</u> after Medicaid standard deductions and medical deductions.</i>	\$1,045.77	845.57	\$200.20

<u>Medicaid Protected Income Limit</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Outside Chittenden County	\$1333	\$1375
Inside Chittenden County	\$1441	\$1483

Attachment A:

Below is a clarification of expenses that are included in Room and Board for people served by Developmental Services, Choices for Care and the Brain Injury Program in Licensed Level III Homes, Shared Living and Adult Family Care Homes.

Included in Room and Board:

- The person's bedroom and use of common living spaces and utilities within the home. No other individuals may use the person's bedroom when the person is away. Basic utilities include electricity, heat, water, sewer, trash removal, snow removal, internet, and 24-hour access to make and receive calls.
- Food with exceptions being purchases in the community, such as restaurant meals and/or beverages **that have been arranged at the person's request.**
- Snack foods in the home, even if specific to the person.
- Laundry, laundry supplies, cleaning supplies, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products etc. If laundry facilities outside the home need to be utilized, this is a room and board cost.

Additional Notes:

- Participants in shared living/AFC should not be receiving:
 - Benefits through Economic Services Division related to food, shelter and personal care such as 3SquaresVT/EBT, Fuel Assistance, and Essential Person.
 - Home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels),
- Personal Needs Allowance cannot be used for the following items:
 - Basic transportation. Basic transportation to the community and medical appointments is an expectation of a shared living contract.
 - Personal care items. On-going personal care items such as latex or vinyl gloves, wipes, or first aid supplies are the responsibility of the shared living provider.