

State of Vermont

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Adult Services Division

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MEMO

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

From: Angela Smith-Dieng, ASD Director *ASD*
Jennifer Garabedian, DDS Director *JLG*

Date: 12/8/2023

Re: Room and Board Memo – 2024 Standards Update

The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) has been notified that effective January 1, 2024, SSI benefits will increase to reflect an increase in the cost of living (COLA). This memo is to communicate the new room & board and minimum personal spending amounts allowed under the DAIL room & board standards. Please refer to the accompanying table 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. **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
DDS Staff
DLP Staff

2024 Room and Board Table:

Developmental Services

Description	Total SSI 2024	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>)	\$1048.60	\$814.65	\$233.95
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level III without ACCS</i>	\$1210.13	\$979.63	\$230.50
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level IV/TCR</i>	\$1182.92	\$944.43	\$238.49
Independent Living	\$998.68	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.

TBI Services

Description	Total SSI 2024	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>)	\$1048.60	\$814.65	\$233.95
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level III without ACCS</i>	\$1210.13	\$979.63	\$230.50
Licensed Residential Care Home <i>Level IV/TCR</i>	\$1182.92	\$944.43	\$238.49
Independent Living	\$998.68	n/a	n/a

Choices for Care – Adult Family Care

Description	Total SSI 2024	Room & Board	Minimum Personal Spending
Adult Family Care Home	\$1048.60	\$814.65	\$233.95

Assistive Community Care Services (includes CFC Enhanced Residential Care)

Description	Total SSI 2024	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 up to 85% of their net income after Medicaid standard deductions and medical deductions.</i>	\$994.77	\$813.57	\$181.20

Medicaid Protected Income Limit	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Outside Chittenden County	\$1258	\$1300
Inside Chittenden County	\$1358	\$1408

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 and 24-hour access to make and receive calls.
- Food with exceptions being purchases made in the community, such as restaurant meals and/or beverages *that have been arranged per 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:

- People in shared living/AFC should not be receiving economic services benefits related to food and shelter such as home delivered meals (meals on wheels), 3SquaresVT/EBT and fuel assistance.
- 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.