

Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan: Vermont's Proposal to Enhance, Expand and Strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid Program

DAIL Advisory Board
Meeting

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Agenda

- ▶ Reminder: Overview of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Enhanced Funding
- ▶ Overview of the HCBS Grant Opportunity
- ▶ Questions & feedback

HCBS Enhanced Funding

Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act

Program Overview

- ▶ Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act provides states with a 10% federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) increase for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) for activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS.
- ▶ HCBS is defined broadly within Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Guidance.
- ▶ Updated projections indicate Vermont will claim \$72M in funds attributable to the increase in FMAP which will be employed as the state share to implement approved activities valued at \$160M.
- ▶ Funding must be used by 3/31/25.

HCBS Services

State Plan Services	HCBS Authorized under 1115 waiver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Health Care • Personal Care Services • Case Management • School Based Services • Rehabilitative Services • Private Duty Nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Injury Program • Developmental Disability Services • Choices for Care Highest/High (excludes skilled nursing facilities) • Choices for Care Moderate Needs (for participants who are Medicaid-eligible only) • Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) (for participants who are Medicaid-eligible only) • Children’s Mental Health

Program Overview

- ▶ Vermont's plan for how to use these funds is outlined in the Vermont HCBS Spending Plan Narrative.
 - ▶ 1. Improve Services
 - ▶ 2. Promote a High-performing and Stable Workforce
 - ▶ 3. Utilize Systems and Data to Improve Care, Promote Value-Based Payment Models and Support Program Oversight
- ▶ An overview of the program and a copy of the latest Vermont HCBS Spending Plan Narrative can be found on our website:
 - ▶ <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/about-us/medicaid-administration/global-commitment-health-1115-waiver/home-and-community-based>

Vermont's Proposal to Enhance, Expand, and Strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid Program: Q3 FY 2024 Update

HCBS SPENDING PLAN PROJECTION AND HCBS SPENDING NARRATIVE IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 9817 OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

 VERMONT

SUBMITTED BY THE AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES ON JANUARY 17, 2024

Home and Community-Based Services Grant Opportunity

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Grant Opportunity Overview

- **Funding source:** Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act
- **Primary audience:** HCBS providers and community-based organizations that primarily serve Medicaid members who use HCBS
- **Goal:** expand, enhance, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS across four tracks of funding:



Infrastructure Improvement



Care Model Innovation



Workforce Development



Organizational Performance Improvement

- **Grant time period:** January to December 2024

Successful proposals by provider and organization type

- Infrastructure Improvement (11):
 - 5 DA/SSAs
 - 4 Adult Day Facilities
 - 1 Home Health Agency
 - 1 Parent Child Center
- Workforce Development (18):
 - 7 DA/SSAs
 - 4 Home Health Agencies
 - 3 Area Agencies on Aging
 - 1 Adult Day Facility
 - 1 ACCS Provider
 - 1 SUD Preferred Provider
 - 1 Community-Based Organization*
- Care Model Innovation Pilots (10):
 - 5 DA/SSAs
 - 2 Home Health Agencies
 - 2 Community-Based Organizations*
 - 1 Area Agency on Aging
- Organizational Performance Improvement (6):
 - 3 DAs
 - 1 Area Agency on Aging
 - 1 Provider Membership Organization (AAA Membership Organization)
 - 1 Family Supportive Housing Provider & CIS Fiscal Agent

Featured Awards: Infrastructure Improvement



Fund the completion of the lower level of the Dr. Richard A. Sleeman Center, increasing their Adult Day program capacity and enabling the expansion of on-site healthcare, personal care, and enrichment services for HCBS participants and their family caregivers.



Fund the replacement of outdated HVAC systems, energy-inefficient windows, and an old boiler within the Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice Building to increase energy efficiency, improve staff experience, and lower energy costs.



Fund the replacement of aging vehicles and purchase of vehicle safety equipment to provide dependable client transportation and improve client experience. Optimize workflows and communication by purchasing tablets and intake kiosks to allow for real-time health record access.

Featured Awards: Workforce Development



Recruit and train HCBS providers by funding a dedicated Clinical Educator to train 200 new Direct Care Workers, covering wages for new workers to attend trainings, and offering Wound Care and Ostomy Care certification courses.



Create career pathways by supporting staff to acquire LNA licensure and encourage further education for LNAs and LPNs toward higher nursing accreditations. Implement comprehensive trainings and establish a wellness program to boost staff skills and increase staff retention.



Implement comprehensive training programs for HCBS providers focused on person-centered thinking, planning, and practice. Establish Family Faculty panels and speaker series to enhance providers' understanding of families raising children with disabilities.

Featured Awards: Care Model Innovation



Create a network of trained peer advocates to enhance decision-making skills and peer-to-peer empowerment for individuals receiving Developmental Services. Establish an advisory committee, develop a comprehensive training curriculum, and hire and train up to 15 peer advocates across the state.



Implement Community Skills Groups in St. Johnsbury and Derby to provide learning opportunities, social relationships, and support for individuals with HCBS needs. These groups are focused on improving health outcomes, functional abilities, and quality of life.



Extend the Longitudinal Care Program (LCP) in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties. The LCP provides care management and support for high-risk patients who are no longer eligible for traditional adult home health services. Funds also support a formal program impact evaluation.

Featured Awards: Organizational Performance Improvement and Compliance



Upgrade their website to include translation capabilities and comply with ADA standards to ensure a broader and more diverse audience can access their services. Create a comprehensive cybersecurity and compliance manual and implement related trainings. Conduct participant satisfaction surveys to guide quality improvement initiatives.



Improve emergency preparedness systems by establishing back-up internet connectivity, digitizing paper client, account, and HR records, and installing battery backup systems in residential houses to ensure safety during power failures.



Support Vermont's five Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in achieving National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation. This process will align the AAAs with industry best practices to improve client care coordination, reduce administrative tasks, and enhance operational efficiency.

Questions & feedback

Contact information:

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Appendix

Examples of Activities in the HCBS Spending Plan Budget

Funding Category	Examples of Activities
1. Improve Services	Design and planning for new and expanded Medicaid HCBS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive Housing Assistance Program • Substance Use Disorder Community Intervention and Treatment Eligibility Group
	Start-up costs for new or expanded Medicaid HCBS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services • Sustained Home Visiting
	Piloting new models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming to provide alternatives to emergency room mental health crisis care • Disability Services (DS) Residential Alternative Regional Pilot Planning Grants
	Provider rate increases and rate studies

Examples of Activities in the HCBS Spending Plan Budget

Funding Category	Examples of Activities
2. Promote a high-performing and stable workforce	Premium Pay for Workforce Recruitment and Retention Program
	Provider trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing standardized progress monitoring tools (CANS/ANSA) • Trainings for Direct Support Professionals • Customized Employment support • Cultural and Linguistic Competence
	Marketing and recruitment of Direct Support Professionals/Direct Care Workers

Funding Category	Examples of Activities
3. Utilize Systems and Data to Improve Care, Promote Value-Based Payment Models and Support Program Oversight	Provider performance incentives
	Investments in care management platforms