

Section 9817 of the
American Rescue Plan:
State Proposal to
Enhance, Expand or
Strengthen HCBS under
the Medicaid Program

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting
March 10, 2022

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.
- ▶ **Estimated projections** indicate Vermont will claim over \$67M in funds attributable to the increase in FMAP which will be employed as the state share to implement approved activities valued at \$149.5M.
- ▶ Time periods
 - ▶ Increased FMAP is for expenditures occurring between 4/1/21 and 3/31/22
 - ▶ Funding may be used through 3/31/24

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

Process Steps

Requirement	Status
CMS approval of HCBS Spending Plan*	Vermont currently has partial approval of its plan and is awaiting approval for a newly-added capital investments grant opportunity
State submission of CMS forms to claim enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)	Vermont has successfully claimed the enhanced funding and will continue to do so through the end of this month
CMS Approval: 1) Medicaid Match for Planned Activities 2) HCBS Spending Plan activities will not impact 1115 Waiver budget neutrality	In progress
State appropriation of funds for HCBS Spending Plan activities	3% rate increases approved in 2021; Remaining appropriations in progress
Implementation of HCBS Spending Plan activities	3% rate increases approved in 2021 were implemented; Planning is underway in anticipation of appropriations

*States can update the HCBS Spending Plan on a quarterly basis.

Spending Plan Details - Feb 2022 Update

Funding Category	Activity	Funding Amount
Improve Services	New and/or Additional Services	\$20,000,000
	Increase Payment Rates	\$51,839,612
	Strengthen Assessment and Person-Centered Planning Processes	\$4,000,000
	Address COVID-19 related concerns	\$2,000,000
Promote a high-performing and stable workforce	Training	\$3,000,000
	Recruitment and Retention	\$17,258,042
Utilize Systems and Data to Improve Care, Promote Value-Based Payment Models and Support Program Oversight	Quality Improvement	\$17,327,556
	Use of Technology and Cross-system Data Integration Efforts	\$19,500,000
	Improve Care Coordination and Care Management	\$3,824,912
	Address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)	\$3,000,000
	Administration of Activities	\$1,800,000
	Capital Investments	\$6,000,000