

The Global Commitment to Health Demonstration: 2022 Renewal

Unprecedented Flexibility

- ▶ **More Dollars to Stabilize and Promote Continued Innovation in Vermont's Health Care System.** This demonstration gives Vermont the ability to use Medicaid funding for a diverse set of investments in public health, health care, and health-related services that strengthen the social safety net to address social factors that influence health.
- ▶ **Budget Neutrality (BN) Adjustments to Increase Provider Rates.** 1115 waivers are subject to BN "caps," or a limit on the amount of Medicaid spending. Vermont will have a first-in-nation ability to adjust BN caps mid demonstration to account for provider rate increases. This will enable us to be nimble in responding to providers' needs and reflects the State's commitment to supporting providers as they continue to provide critical services to their patients.
- ▶ **Strengthening Providers' Data Exchange Capabilities to Advance Population Health.** With the approval of the \$14.9 million Medicaid Data Aggregation and Access Program (MDAAP), Vermont will join a small cohort of states that are using Medicaid funding to administer incentive payments to expand providers' HIT capabilities. Vermont plans for the MDAAP funding to be used to help 275+ Medicaid-enrolled mental health, SUD, and LTSS providers—which have historically been excluded from federal HIT initiatives—purchase the systems and tools they need to capture and exchange data and use it meaningfully to manage and improve population health.

New and Expanded Coverage

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- ▶ **Expanded Access to SUD Treatment for Vermonters Above Medicaid Income Limit.** Vermont will be the first state in the nation to expand access to critical SUD treatment services for individuals whose income is above Medicaid limits. Starting in 2024, individuals with incomes above 133% FPL up to 225% FPL (\$1,506-\$2,548 per month for a single adult) will be eligible for the SUD Community Intervention and Treatment program, which will offer a comprehensive set of SUD benefits, including service coordination, recovery supports, psychoeducation, peer supports, residential treatment, withdrawal management, counseling, and skilled therapy services. [1/2025]
- ▶ **Permanent Supportive Housing Program.** To support Medicaid enrollees in securing and maintaining housing appropriate for their needs, Vermont obtained approval to implement a Supportive Housing Assistance Pilot that will offer a range of pre-tenancy supports, tenancy sustaining services, and community transition services. [1/2025]
- ▶ **CRT – No income limit.** Previous waiver capped CRT program to 185% FPL, with investments providing coverage for individuals over income. [7/2022]
- ▶ **New Peer Support Benefit for SUD and CRT.** Peer specialists use lived experience to help individuals and their families understand and develop the skills to address mental illness, SUD, and other health conditions. Core functions include providing recovery, health, and wellness supports; supporting individuals in accessing community-based resources and navigating state and local systems; providing employment supports, including educating individuals regarding services and benefits available to assist in transitioning into and staying in the workforce; and promoting empowerment and a sense of hope through self-advocacy. [Upon plan design]

New and Expanded Coverage

- ▶ **Sustainable funding for Lund Home.** The Lund Home—Vermont’s residential mental health and SUD treatment program for pregnant women, postpartum women, and mothers—offers a unique care model that allows families to stay together during treatment. Through the Global Commitment renewal, Vermont can continue to provide Medicaid reimbursement to the Lund Home and is the first state to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds for maternal health and treatment services offered in a residential facility focused on this specialized population. This allows Lund to be sustainably funded through Medicaid program and no longer subject to the IMD phasedown. [7/2022]
- ▶ **Reimbursement of Personal Care and Life Skills Aide for Parents and Caretakers (BI, Children’s, DS).** [Upon rulemaking]
- ▶ **Choices for Care New Life Skills Aide Benefit.** Addition of “life skills aide” service to the CFC service array for High/Highest groups. To provide training in specific Activities of Daily Living identified in the treatment plan designed to promote independent living and community re-integration. [Upon rulemaking]
- ▶ **CFC: Moderate Needs Change to Clinical Criteria.** Revise the CFC Moderate Needs Group clinical eligibility criteria to ensure that services are targeted to at-risk Vermonters with the most acute needs. Change will help to better manage long waitlists. [After MOE ends]
- ▶ **Increased Pharmacy Benefit for Low-Income elderly Vermonters:** Extension of Medicaid-equivalent pharmaceutical coverage to VPharm eligible individuals with incomes up to 225% FPL. [7/2022]