

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

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# 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
- ▶ **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
- ▶ Funding may be used through 3/31/24

## HCBS Services

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

# Focus on One-Time Investments

- ▶ The HCBS Spending Plan has a strong emphasis on one-time, transformational investments to minimize ongoing sustainability concerns while strengthening the HCBS system such as:
  - ▶ Supporting the availability of high-performing providers
  - ▶ Furthering care integration across the care continuum including SDOH
  - ▶ Promoting value-based purchasing within HCBS programs
  - ▶ Developing infrastructure and systems to support program improvement and population health management

# Stakeholder Engagement

- ▶ Public comments on the initial HCBS Spending Plan
  - ▶ Received 65 written comments with over 125 ideas and suggestions for funding uses
  - ▶ Themes were analyzed by commenter type
    - ▶ Many providers commented on the need for rate changes
    - ▶ Many providers, individuals, and families commented on the need for higher wages for direct care workers
  - ▶ Comments informed HCBS Spending Plan revisions to utilize funding to perform rate studies and develop methodology updates for HCBS

# Spending Plan Details - Feb 2022 Update

Funding Category	Activity	Funding Amount
Improve Services	New and/or Additional Services	\$20,000,000
	Increase Payment Rates <i>*Includes \$390,000 for Rate Studies included in FY22 BAA</i>	\$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