

## Memorandum

**To:** House Human Services Committee  
**From:** Ken Schatz, DCF Commissioner  
**Re:** FY20 BAA/CIS  
**Date:** January 14, 2020

Please see the responses below to your follow up questions:

- Number of SAG apps received, number funded, number not funded – over the last three years**  
**Amount of money spent on SAGs per year over the last three years**

Special Accommodations Grants - Summary Data FY 2018-2020			
	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>
Number of applications received	102	107	88
Number funded	79	55	31
Number not funded	23	52	57
Total spent per year (based on approved funding)	\$ 470,337.00	\$ 400,744.26	\$ 247,915.69
Average grant amount per child	\$ 6,624.46	\$ 6,463.62	\$ 5,164.91

- How well the SAGs kept children in child care:**

We currently are not able to track this information at the state level. The regional CIS Specialized Child Care Coordinators may have this information as they work with the child care programs and child's team to access any available resources.

- Average amount per SAG provided to a child and cap information:**

The guidelines for SAGs specify a maximum dollar amount of \$10,000 for a 6-month period. Historically, the six-month grant period provided CDD the capacity to provide necessary oversight to monitor the funding going out to child care providers. When SAG grants were first established, they were not intended to be a long-term fix; instead they were intended to support children from being expelled during which time an evaluation could be completed, a PCA could be applied for, or mental health or EEE resources might have been accessed.

In FY20, the CDD Deputy Commissioner authorized funding beyond the six-month period for specific children whose extraordinary medical and behavioral needs would be compromised if



they were not funded for the 2nd half of the year. These specific grants, lasting beyond six months, allowed the child to remain in their childcare program without fear of expulsion. In cases where the grant amount exceeds the six-month period, the child care program must invoice CDD at the six-month period and provide financial records. Every child care program completes a final report 30-45 days after the grant ends.

#### **4. Waitlist for those not awarded SAG funds**

We encourage applicants to reach out to their regional CIS Specialized Child Care Coordinators to help facilitate additional team meetings to assess other options such as reduced schedules or alternative child care settings; SAG grants are the last resort.

#### **5. CIS: Why did we send the changed rates to CMS prior to receiving public comment?**

Vermont's submission to CMS includes a proposed methodology but does not specify the rate at this time. We have inquired whether CMS will approve a rate range that spans the rates currently in place, which would provide us flexibility to implement the proposed ~\$501 or adjust to the ~\$633. This approach allowed us to move forward with the CMS submission process while maintaining flexibility to adjust the approach if needed based on provider comment, legislative action, or other factors. An official comment period will be conducted prior to a rate change going into effect.

#### **6. CIS: Did we bid out for the rate study consultant? (Is also DAIL's rate consultant)**

DVHA has a contract with Burns and Associates to provide consulting on Medicaid payment systems; that contract resulted from a competitive bid process that occurred during the first half of calendar year 2018. Section 4 in the contract's Statement of Work outlines a key area of work wherein Burns and Associates provides analytic support and subject matter expertise and the development and implementation of value-based initiatives. This work includes "...payment reform projects that impact other Medicaid-covered services (including, but not limited to, mental health services, substance use disorder treatment services, and long-term services and supports) through partnerships between departments in the Agency of Human Services."

