

Elder Care Clinician Program Statewide Snapshot SFY 2019

What is the Elder Care Clinician Program (ECCP)?

The Elder Care Clinician Program (ECCP) began in 2000 and serves Vermonters age 60 and older in their home due to a psychological, emotional, and/or physical barrier to accessing office-based mental health services. The goals of the program are to improve the quality of life of older Vermonters and prevent or delay the need for institutional care.

Who is served and where? What are their needs?

In state fiscal year 2019 (July 2018-June 2019), 345 older Vermonters were served. Of those served, 74% were female, and 26% were male; 37% were in the 60's, 36% in their 70's, and 27% were 80+. The vast majority were served in their homes (76%), though some were also served in other community settings, such as a senior center or adult day program (8%), or in an office (16%). The most common diagnoses are Anxiety (54%) and mood disorders such as Depression (47%). Many have co-occurring conditions.

Who provides the service?

Mental health clinicians at seven designated mental health agencies provide services including clinical assessments, individual and family therapy, supportive counseling and medication management. Most older Vermonters are referred to the designated agencies through the five Area Agencies on Aging in the state. In state fiscal year 2019 almost 2,900 hours of clinical therapy were provided.

How is the program funded?

The program is funded by a combination of Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurance revenue, the state general fund appropriation, and local agency funds. Medicare was the primary insurance for 80% of those served in 2018, followed by Medicaid at 44%. The designated agencies always bill insurance first if possible.

In State Fiscal Year 2019, the general fund appropriation was approx. \$235,000, which provides the state match needed for Medicaid billing plus supplemental funding that is managed via local contract between the Area Agency on Aging and the designated agency. These funds do not cover all program costs, so most agencies supplement with additional funds.

See back for more

Designated Agencies Providing Elder Care:

Counseling Services of Addison County
Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services of Vermont
Howard Center
Northeast Kingdom Human Services
Northwestern Counseling and Support Services
Rutland Mental Health Services
Washington County Mental Health Services

Area Agencies on Aging:

Age Well
Central Vermont Council on Aging
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging
Senior Solutions
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

State Plan on Aging

Vermont’s current State Plan on Aging focuses on supporting healthy aging for all Vermonters and includes a specific objective to “increase behavioral health prevention, treatment and recovery for older Vermonters.” In order to achieve this objective, Vermont needs a robust network of designated agencies and elder care clinicians with the resources to serve older Vermonters with a diversity of behavioral health needs wherever they may live. Both the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and the Department of Mental Health are committed to working collaboratively with the designated agencies and Area Agencies on Aging to ensure a successful and sustainable Elder Care Clinician Program.

Additional Resources

Elder Care Clinician Program Manual:

<https://asd.vermont.gov/sites/asd/files/documents/2019%20ECC%20Manual.pdf>

Elder Care Data Report:

https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mhnew/files/documents/Reports/Stats/Eldercare_FY19.pdf

State Plan on Aging:

<https://asd.vermont.gov/resources/state-plans>

Questions?

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