



## Memorandum

**To: Senate Health and Welfare Committee**  
**From: Vermont Association of Adult Day Services (VAADS)**  
**Date: June 10, 2020**  
**Re: Budget – Adult Day Services**

There are currently 12 Adult Day programs throughout Vermont, which provide community-based non-residential supports to adults with physical or cognitive impairments (there were 14 programs, but Barre and Rutland are shutting down their programs permanently). Our services include nursing care (many of our participants have high medical needs), meals, and socialization. We not only enable our participants to remain in their homes and active in their communities, but we also provide essential respite, support, and education to family members and caregivers.

Many programs have received short-term (through June) Medicaid Retainers and/or CARES Act loans. However, come July 1st, for the most part, those funds will no longer be available. We are fee-for-services providers and because we are closed, we will not be able to cover fixed costs (i.e., rent/mortgage, maintenance costs, etc.) and payroll. There is an imperative need for funding so that we can remain viable until such time as it is safe and feasible to reopen. Without immediate support, we will most certainly all close - permanently. Closure of our programs will result in

- Increased nursing homes admissions, resulting in high costs to the state, not to mention decreased quality of life for the participant.
- Increased family caregiver responsibilities (for those who can remain at home), resulting in loss of time for caregiver employment and high stress levels (no respite)
- Increased elder abuse and exploitation related in increased caregiver stress
- Increased social isolation of the participant, which has nationally been shown to contribute to increased health problems and premature morbidity
- Increased utilization of physicians' offices and hospital ERs in place of the consistent health oversight and chronic health management available at an Adult Day Program

We appreciate that the Governor and legislators are working on a CRF bill to bring financial relief to health care providers. Our concern is that the money in the bill will not go out by July 1<sup>st</sup>, when we will need it. We also want to ensure that, because we are a relatively small group of providers, we will not be overlooked. That is why we need to be included in the budget.

Our combined costs (fixed costs and personnel expenses) total \$791,435/month (\$2,374,305 for the first quarter). We are hoping that this committee will support money being put into the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget, which Senate Appropriations is working on, to ensure that no additional programs close permanently. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in the coming days.