



**Linda Wichlac, President, VAADS - House Appropriations Committee  
January 25, 2021**

Adult Day Programs offer community-based non-residential supports in a safe, supportive environment, where people receive a range of professional health, social, therapeutic, and nutritional services. The programs also provide respite, support and education to family members and caregivers. These services allow for significant savings to the state - enabling Vermonters to age at home, instead of in nursing homes or assisted living residences.

All programs have, for the most part, been closed since March 2020. Three programs (out of 13, prior to the pandemic) have closed permanently – Barre, Rutland, and Newbury. While programs have been creative in their virtual programming (Adult Day Without Walls), we need far greater financial assistance than what we are able to bring in with our very limited services and continuing fixed costs. At my program, Benning Project Independence, I am able to bring in only 1% of revenue through this source of funding. We have also discovered that claims can be denied if another service provider has billed using the same revenue code on the same day, and there is no reimbursement for the online activities, caregiver support and health monitoring we have been providing. As Adult Days Services funding is based on fee-for-service, it has been very challenging to remain solvent.

**Funding during the Last Quarter of FY 2020 and First Two Quarters of FY 2021**

During the last quarter of FY 2020, some programs were able to remain viable, while closed, with Retainer payments from DVHA, PPP loans, and EIDL loans. Then, thanks to the members of this committee and your colleagues in the House and the Senate last session, Adult Day programs were able to secure federal funds through CRF for the first 2 quarters of FY 2021 - \$2.45 million in Q1 and \$2 million in Q2. Those funds helped to ensure that most of the programs were able to remain viable. Almost all of those funds have been expended.

**Funding Request**

Vermont's Adult Day programs are committed to resuming in-person services. We continue to receive referrals from the community for our services. Financial support will be critical for our continuing to be a viable community resource. Without more financial help, we anticipate more programs permanently closing within the next month to several months, depending on the ability to use (and potentially deplete) reserves. We have calculated that, in order to remain viable, the Adult Day Programs will need \$1.9 million for the third quarter of FY 2021, as well as another \$1.9 million for the last quarter.

Whether it is through S.36 or budget adjustment, we ask that you please support funding for Adult Day services through the most timely avenue as possible.