

# Agency of Human Services

COVID-19 Emergency Relief Bill

January 20, 2021

## Continuation of FMAP Bump – 6.2%

- On January 7, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary renewed the [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), effective January 21.
- The public health emergency extension is for 90 days, which will allow the 6.2% FMAP enhancement to continue through June 2021.

# Health Care Provider Support

- The bill includes \$9 billion in support for health care providers, which compromises an extension of relief from Medicare sequester cuts through March 31, 2021, an additional \$3 billion and new distribution requirements for the **Provider Relief Fund**, and \$3 billion for increased payments to physicians and other health care providers under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- There are no VT specific allocations for the new funds.
- Vermont has received \$207M direct to 1,137 providers as of 1/8/2021

## Testing and Vaccine Assistance – Direct to VDH

- \$5.6M for vaccines from CDC;
- \$35.9M for testing, contact tracing and COVID-19 mitigation from CDC;
  - Builds out existing \$55M Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant award from CDC;
- Actual awards amounts are significantly less than originally calculated;
  - Small state issue;
- For use in the administration and distribution of vaccinations, as well as for virus testing, contact tracing and mitigation programs.
- Vermont's estimated award does not include unallocated funding for high-risk and underserved areas.

## Emergency Rental Assistance - \$200M

- This funding will be run through the US Treasury, and the distribution of these funds will be received at the statewide level, similar to the CRF.
- Funds will be targeted to assist renters in need as families are impacted by COVID to use as follows:
  - Past due rent
  - Future rent payments
  - Utility and energy expenses
- The CDC's rental eviction moratorium is extended until January 31, 2021

## Substance Abuse (\$6.3M) and Mental Health (\$3.2M)

- Funds are issued under existing federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant and Mental Health Block Grant programs.
- Of the \$3.2M funded for Mental Health, at least 50% will be provided directly to specified facilities. More information is required.

# Administration for Children & Families

- Child Care and Development - \$12.6M
  - Under the existing federal Child Care and Development Block Grant program, funds may be used with the continued flexibility given to states under the CARES Act, including:
    - Support to childcare providers during closures or reduced enrollment
    - Expanded assistance to essential workers
    - Payment relief to working families
- Additional funding for the following existing federal programs:
  - \$423k Head Start funding
  - \$101k Promoting Safe and Stable Families
  - \$1.2M Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
  - \$141k Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

## Miscellaneous Support

- \$840k for Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals
- SNAP - increases the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit level by 15 percent through June 30, 2021 and provides \$100 million for state administrative costs through fiscal year 2021.
- FEMA Funeral Benefit – deaths caused by COVID-19 - \$903K to Vermont



## Future Funding

- Biden Proposal - \$1.9 Trillion
  - Vaccinations and virus-testing
  - Stabilization fund to open child-care centers
  - Rental & utility assistance for low-income households
  - Emergency Housing