

H.883 – Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act As Recommended by the Committee of Conference

Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2025 Budget¹

(\$ millions)	General Funds	Federal Funds	Transportation Funds	Education Funds	All Other funds	Unduplicated Totals
FY 2024 BAA	2,409.9	3,195.1	357.0	2,146.5	559.9	8,668.4
Conference Change	(223.4)	(96.2)	16.7	177.8	26.9	(98.1)
FY 2025 Total	2,186.5	3,098.9	373.7	2,324.3	586.8	8,570.3

Note: amounts reflect unduplicated appropriations and only includes bills directly tied to the Big Bill, such as the T-bill (H.868) and the Capital bill. Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

REVENUE OVERVIEW

- In fiscal year 2025, General Fund revenues are forecasted to be \$2.1B – \$17.9M below fiscal year 2024 revenues.
- In fiscal years 2024 and 2025, General Fund revenues are forecasted to be a cumulative \$111.1M below fiscal year 2023 revenues.
- This budget includes a \$114M in contingent General Fund appropriations, if revenue available

OVERVIEW

- This budget fills all statutorily required reserves, meets all pension obligations, and makes essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, and the environment.
- General Fund appropriations total \$2.2B. All funds (unduplicated) appropriations total \$8.6B.
- General Fund appropriations in this budget are \$10.0M, or 0.46%, higher than the Governor’s Recommend.

BASE APPROPRIATIONS

- Provides 3% rate increase to community providers including Designated Agencies, Specialized Service Agencies, Adults Day Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, and Enhanced Residential Care (\$19M all funds)
- Provides \$1.3M GC to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to increase reimbursement rates for skilled nursing to Medicare Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rate
- Provides \$1.3M GC for nonemergency medical transport
- Provides nearly \$11M GC to DAIL for Developmental Services (DS) caseload and DS Public Safety/Act 248 (1987) caseload
- Provides \$4.9M GC for statutory nursing home rate increase
- Provides \$1M GF for startup costs for the youth inpatient facility funded by Act 78 (2023)
- Provides \$1.8M GF to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to support S.213 initiatives relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety
- Provides \$1M GF to the Secretary of State to support the Vermont Access Network
- Provides \$1.4 GF to Vermont State Colleges (VSC) for 3% increases and \$1.5M GF for deficit reduction
- Provides \$30.6M GF and \$2.5M TF to support the State Employees collective bargaining agreement
- Provides three Regional Emergency Management Program Coordinators at the Department of Public Safety (DPS)

¹ The full Big Bill web report is available at:

https://ljfo.vermont.gov/custom_reports/webreports/webreports/web/FY2025%20Big%20Bill%20Web%20Report%205-7-2024%209_40_39%20AM.html



HOUSING

- Provides \$7.5M GF for Emergency Housing in addition to a \$16.5M GF one-time appropriation and a \$20M GF contingent appropriation
- Provides \$7.2M GF to the Department for Children and Families' (DCF) Office of Economic Opportunity for shelter bed expansion
- Provides additional \$753K to support programs for homeless youth
- Provides a \$10M contingent appropriation for shelter beds and permanent supportive housing
- Provides \$25.8M to DCF for the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP)
- Provides \$900K GF for the State Refugee Office to support transitional housing for refugees

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Directs \$2M from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund for opioid antagonist distribution
- Directs \$4.1M from the Opioid Abatement Fund for substance use prevention and treatment
- Directs the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to expand eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs starting in fiscal year 2026
- Directs \$1.2M from the Opioid Abatement Fund for recovery residences, including two new residences

JUSTICE INVESTMENTS

- Provides \$1.86M GF to the Office of the Defender General for caseload relief
- Provides \$2.86M GF to the Judiciary for new positions to address the criminal justice system backlog and court security in addition to three new superior court judges
- Provides \$297K GF to court diversion to address increased caseload
- Provides \$661K GF to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the pretrial supervision and electronic monitoring programs as outlined in S.195
- Provides \$300K for Community Justice Centers

WORKFORCE

- Provides \$500K GF and a \$1.5M contingent appropriation to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the Serve, Learn, and Earn Program
- Provides carryforward authority in statute for education loan repayment programs for health care professionals
- Provides \$1M GF for the Community College of Vermont (CCV) Tuition Advantage Program
- Provides funding for the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) 802Opportunity program that provides free tuition to certain Vermonters at CCV
- Provides \$1.3M to VSAC for the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program
- Provides up to \$1M GF to continue the Vermont Trades Scholarship Program
- Provides authority for VSAC to use up to \$300K GF for student aspirational initiatives at one or more high schools



HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES

FLOOD AND NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION

- Provides \$12.5M GF to match Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Flood Hazard Mitigation grants
- Provides \$500K GF for State match for the Water Resources Development Winooski Study
- Provides \$1.75M GF to support S.213 initiatives relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety
- Provides \$1M GF for financial assistance to logging contractors to ensure water quality protection and climate adaptation practices are followed
- Provides \$1M GF for local economic damage grants and transfer to the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund to support communities affected by the August and December federally-declared disasters
- Provides \$250K GF to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the Urban Search and Rescue Team
- Contingently appropriates:
 - \$3.5M GF to the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund for structure elevation grants
 - \$3M GF to the Dam Safety Revolving Loan Fund

HOUSING

- Provides \$16.5M GF to DCF for Emergency Housing
- Provides \$1M GF to extend 10 DCF positions to support Emergency Housing
- Provides \$1M GF to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program
- Contingently appropriates:
 - \$20M GF for Emergency Housing
 - \$2M GF to DHCD for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP)
 - \$4M GF to DEC for the Healthy Homes Initiative

AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides \$835K GF for the Bridges to Health Program
- Provides \$3M GF contingent appropriation for the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) and additional \$3M if funds are available at Agency of Human Services (AHS) fiscal year 2024 closeout
- Provides \$332K GF for 2-1-1 to operate 24/7
- Provides \$500K GF contingent appropriation to skilled nursing facilities and \$500K GF contingent appropriation for Medical Director recruitment and retention grants

OTHER

- Provides \$300K GF and balance of Act 84 (2024) appropriation to the Office of the Secretary of State for 2024 elections
- Provides \$240K GF and \$60K contingent appropriation to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) for the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs
- Provides \$550K GF to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (F&W) to support the Salisbury Fish Hatchery
- Provides \$10M GF to VSC for transformation bridge funding
- Provides \$300K GF to DOC to fund a data partnership



- Provides \$254K GF to the Center for Crime Victim Services for a grant to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Provides \$1.3M GF contingent appropriation to DCF for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank and its network partner food shelves and pantries
- Provides \$750K GF contingent transfer to the Court Technology Fund

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- Provides \$25M GF transfer to the Education Fund to provide property tax relief to Vermonters

CASH FUND FOR CAPITAL AND ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

- Appropriates \$9.6M in Sec. B.1103 from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments

ARPA REALLOCATIONS

- If previous American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriations will not meet required obligation deadlines, funds will revert and be reallocated as follows:
 - \$36M to DPS for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) match and municipal support for hazard mitigation
 - \$4M to the Agency of Administration (AoA) for anticipated ARPA audit response
 - \$30M to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for the production and preservation of affordable rental and homeownership units
 - \$25M to DHCD for a grant to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) for the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, the Vermont Rental Revolving Loan Fund, and the First Generation Homebuyer Program
 - Remaining funds will be reallocated, with the authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee (JFC), to existing ARPA programs

