





13 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 

(802) 223-1773 

Contact@vermontcarepartners.org 

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Vermont Care Partners (VCP). We write to ask you to approve our request for a 6.5% Medicaid rate increase (\$14.6 million dollars) for the Designated and Specialized Service Agencies. This funding would sustain our statewide network of community-based agencies providing mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services and supports.

We are grateful for your historic support over the years. Funding increases help ensure that children, families, and adults throughout Vermont continue to have access to the supports they need and deserve. Funding means that our staff can provide for their families at home while bringing their best selves to work every day in service of the individuals and communities to whom they have dedicated their careers.

Increases in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 have brought our turnover rates back to pre-pandemic levels, from a system-wide high of 33.6% in FY 23 down to 23.1% in FY 24. Vacancy rates have begun to trend downward as well, from a high of 18.1% in FY 22 to 15.0% in FY 24. Thanks to your support, we have turned the tide, yet our work is not done.

The primary reasons our staff give for leaving their positions are related to wages and burnout. Without adequate funding, we risk seeing shuttered programs and a diminished quality of life for staff and clients alike. Turnover and vacancy rates, while improved, remain high and are at risk of rising again.

We need your continued support to realize the gains we have made thus far. Without you, yet facing a rapidly growing cost of living, salaries will easily fall behind. Stagnant wages leave staff feeling fearful and uncertain about their ability to provide for their loved ones. This results in compassionate, skilled, and experienced workers leaving the field for other industries. Those who remain face increasing levels of fatigue and burnout as they do their best to ensure clients are still well cared for.

All of this directly translates to less people getting the help they need.

Should our system falter due to insufficient funding, we will see more and more Vermonters experiencing crises. These crises require costly interventions involving emergency services and police while placing additional demands on our already overburdened hospital system.

Our services promote good physical and mental health and prevent challenges from turning into crises. Our network constitutes an innovative, responsive, and effective system of care that empowers Vermonters to live fulfilling lives. Please support us in our work by approving a 6.5% Medicaid rate increase so that we may continue to serve the vibrant people and communities of Vermont.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vermont Care Partners

Providing statewide leadership for an integrated, high quality system of comprehensive services and supports

www.vermontcarepartners.org