



To: Vermont House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Re: FY 2025 Budget Requests  
Date: February 12, 2024

### **Moderate Needs Group (MNG) Program**

The Moderate Needs Group program (MNG) is part of the Choices for Care program (CFC). CFC provides long-term care services and supports enabling older people to be able to remain in their homes and maintain their quality of life, providing access to services such as case management, homemaker services, and adult day services. Remaining safely in their homes is both a benefit to the client as well as to the state, given the high cost of long-term care services and support. Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Adult Day Programs serve MNG clients.

### **FY 2024 Funding Cut - \$2 million**

Last year, DAIL requested, and the Legislature approved, a \$2 million cut due to underutilization. However, underutilization was due to systems issues, not lowered demand. The legislature wasn't told that providers would have their allocations cut. Adult Day programs received a reduction of \$832,138 in MNG funds in FY 24, compared to FY 23. Both adult days and AAA have Vermonters waiting for services under MNG.

To better meet the high demand for MNG services and address the root causes of the perceived underutilization, DAIL should adopt the recommendations for the MNG Program from the *Vermont Extending Home and Community-Based Services Report and Recommendations (11/15/24)*, including "creating a streamlined and efficient process for re-allocating unspent funds...(ensuring) more Vermonters receive services they need and no funds are left unspent and (at risk for legislative action." DAIL needs to correct the system so that we can allocate the right resources to MNG clients in a timely fashion.

### **Legislative Request**

- **Restore the FY 2024 Funding Cut of \$2 million**
  - V4A and VAADS request that you restore the \$2 million MNG funding that was cut in the SFY 2024 and add it to the base budget in SFY2025.

Thank you for your generous support for home and community-based services for older Vermonters! Please reach out to V4A and VAADS with any questions.

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