



Office of the Health Care Advocate
264 North Winooski Ave., Burlington VT 05401
Toll Free Hotline: 800-917-7787
www.vtlawhelp.org/health Fax: 802-863-7152

January 30th, 2026

Re: Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) SFY27 Appropriations Request

The HCA requests a **\$450,000** increase to base funding for SFY27. Our current appropriation for SFY26 is currently \$2,000,406. This request is needed to retain our professional staff that provide direct support and advocacy for Vermonters. **The HCA has not received an increase in our base funding since SFY24.**

Vermonters need a strong and stable HCA more than ever to help navigate a changing and more challenging health care system. The next few years in front of us will be especially hard for tens of thousands of Vermonters. The HCA will be a key partner for Vermonters, State Government and policy makers to preserve access to care. This is going to be an all-hands-on-deck challenge to effectively support Vermonters.

Over SFY 25 and 26, HCA will save Vermonters over \$175 million.

- MSP expansion starting 1/1/26 is estimated to have a value of **\$65 million** each year for low income older and disabled Vermonters. This investment greatly improves their access to care and supports their providers.
- Silver Loading for the calendar years 2025 and 2026 is estimated to improve Vermonters' purchasing power in the exchange by **\$53 million** each year.
- Direct helpline support saves Vermonters about **\$3 million** each year.

Investing in the HCA has provided a 44X return for Vermonters.

Recent Appropriations for the HCA

SFY26 - \$2,000,406
SFY25 - \$2,000,406
SFY24 - \$1,847,406
SFY23 - \$1,847,406

Mike Fisher
Chief Health Care Advocate
mfisher@vtlegalaid.org