



## February 19, 2026 | Comments on the Proposed FY2027 DAIL Budget

The Vermont Aging Network Consortium (VANC) is a formal affiliation of the five designated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). We request the following budget items:

### Funding to sustain the 2% BAA increase

- Sustain the 2% rate increase from the FY 26 BAA base appropriation by ensuring that there are sufficient funds in the FY 27 budget (an additional \$141,000 over the Governor's recommendation).

### Medicaid reimbursement rate increases for home and community-based services

- VANC joins the Long-Term Care Crisis Coalition's request for a 3.5% inflationary increase across the board for home- and community-based service providers, including AAA case management services.

### Nutrition for Older Vermonters:

- VANC requests an additional **\$2 million** in base general funds for home-delivered meals for older Vermonters, including the option to draw down additional matching funds through the global commitment investment.

### Elder Care Program:

- VANC supports restoring the Elder Care program, **\$349,763 (GC)**; a collaboration between Area Agencies on Aging and Designated Agencies. It allows for necessary mental health counseling to support homebound elders in the community. Increasingly older Vermonters suffer from memory issues, alcohol consumption at dangerous levels and the lack of necessary emotional support. We cannot leave this group unsupported.

### Expanding Dementia Respite and Dementia Capable Programing in Vermont:

- VANC requests support for H.685 which increases the Dementia Respite Grant program by \$500,000. This grant is administered by the Area Agencies on Aging, to serve more unpaid caregivers of loved ones with dementia.

