

**House Health Care Committee FY26 budget language proposals****Sec. A. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM; DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH;  
REPORT**

As part of its fiscal year 2026 budget adjustment proposal, the Department of Mental Health shall provide information to the House Committees on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations regarding ways to:

(1) sustain existing community-based mental health outreach efforts, including continued funding for the Howard Center’s Community Outreach program;

(2) expand low-barrier, community-based mental health services in rural, underserved areas of Vermont to engage individuals in crisis with outreach, support, and connection to services; and

(3) support integration of low-barrier, community-based mental health services into Vermont’s system of care, along with services such as the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, local crisis response teams, mental health urgent care, recovery centers, and other peer-based services.

**Sec. B. FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS; PAYMENT METHODOLOGY;  
REPORT**

The Department of Vermont Health Access shall collaborate with representatives of Vermont’s federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to develop a mutually agreeable Medicaid payment methodology for FQHCs that complies with federal requirements and adequately reimburses the FQHCs for providing care to Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries. On or before October 1, 2025, the Department shall report the methodology to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the Health Reform Oversight Committee, the House Committee on Health Care, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

## Sec. C. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of the following three new permanent, classified positions is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026; these positions shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch:

- (1) one Health Systems Financial Principal Analyst;
- (2) one Health Systems Access Principal Analyst; and
- (3) one Health Systems Quality Project Manager.

(b)(1) If the State moves forward with implementation of the AHEAD Model through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in fiscal year 2026, the establishment of the following two new permanent, classified positions is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board beginning in the second quarter of fiscal year 2026; these positions shall be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch:

- (A) one Director, Global Budget; and
- (B) one Procurement Manager.

(2) In fiscal year 2026, the sum of \$135,000.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board from the General Fund as base funding, and \$202,500.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board from the GMCB Billback Regulatory Fund, for the positions created in this subsection.

(c)(1) The establishment of two new classified, 12-month limited service positions, Data and Reporting Coordinator, is authorized at the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2026.

(2) In fiscal year 2026, the sum of \$80,000.00 is appropriated to the Green Mountain Care Board from the General Fund as one-time funding, and \$120,000.00 is appropriated to the Green

Mountain Care Board from the GMCB Billback Regulatory Fund, for the limited service positions created in this subsection.