

1 Sec. 51. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

2 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME

3 APPROPRIATIONS

4 * * *

5 (e) Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. In fiscal year 2026,
6 funds are appropriated for the following:

7 * * *

8 (2) \$6,200 General Fund for per diems and expense reimbursement for
9 members of the Office of New Americans Study Committee; ~~and~~

10 (3) \$514,875 General Fund and \$735,125 federal funds for the
11 Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for
12 the first year of implementation of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine
13 Residency Program if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
14 approves the Agency's request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec.
15 E.306.5(a) of this act;

16 (4) \$385,000 General Fund for office fit-up costs at the Waterbury State
17 Office Complex and Pilgrim Place; and

18 (5) \$329,520 General Fund and \$470,480 federal funds for the
19 Department of Vermont Health Access' Global Commitment appropriation for
20 a one-time payment increase for nonemergency medical transportation
21 funding.

22 * * *

1 (o) Department of Economic Development. In fiscal year 2026, funds are
2 appropriated for the following:

3 * * *

4 (6) \$250,000 General Fund for a competitive grant to establish a new
5 women's recovery residence, per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery
6 Housing Program Action Plan, that shall be awarded on or before September
7 30, 2025. Up to \$50,000 may be used for activities otherwise designated non-
8 eligible per the criteria of the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action
9 Plan.

10 * * *

11 (p) Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In fiscal year 2026, funds
12 are appropriated for the following:

13 (1) \$5,000,000 General Fund to provide support and enhance capacity
14 for the production and preservation of affordable mixed-income rental housing
15 and homeownership units, including improvements to manufactured homes
16 and communities; permanent homes and emergency shelter for those
17 experiencing homelessness; recovery residences; and housing available to farm
18 workers, refugees, and individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded
19 home and community-based services; and

20 (2) \$1,000,000 General Fund for the Land Access and Opportunity
21 Board's Homes for All Initiative and for Community Resilience grants.

22 * * *

1 (r) Department of Vermont Health Access. In fiscal year 2026, funds are
2 appropriated for the following:

3 * * *

4 (3) \$10,800,000 Global Commitment for the Support and Services at
5 Home program, the Primary Care Medical Home, and Community Health
6 Team services under the Blueprint for Health; ~~and~~

7 (4) \$1,250,000 Global Commitment for the first year of implementation
8 of the Maple Mountain Family Medicine Residency Program if the Centers for
9 Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the Agency of Human Services'
10 request for federal matching funds pursuant to Sec. E.306.5(a) of this act;

11 (5) \$2,727,046 General Fund for the Vermont Health Connect cloud
12 migration;

13 (6) \$5,300,000 General Fund and \$160,000 federal funds for an
14 alternative payment model reconciliation payment to Brattleboro Retreat. All
15 or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency
16 of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide State match. If
17 funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global
18 Commitment Program to provide State match, the commensurate amount of
19 Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the
20 Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to Sec. E.301.1 of this act; and

21 (7) \$800,000 Global Commitment a one-time payment increase for
22 nonemergency medical transportation funding.

23 * * *

1 (t) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2026, funds
2 are appropriated for the following:

3 * * *

(2) ~~\$500,000~~ \$860,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Foodbank
for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program;

6 * * *

1 Sec. 78. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2) is amended to
2 read:

3 (2) \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration to be
4 transferred by the Emergency Board pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 133 while the
5 General Assembly is not in session in the event of a reduction in federal funds
6 to the State as set forth in Sec. E.127.2 of this act, or in the event the State or
7 its municipalities incur extraordinary public safety costs necessitated by
8 increased federal deployments. The General Assembly may designate these
9 funds for other purposes related to federal funding changes. These funds shall
10 carry forward each fiscal year until fully expended or reverted by an act of the
11 General Assembly.

1 Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

2 (a) In fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027, while the General Assembly is
3 not in session the Emergency Board shall have the authority to transfer part of
4 the appropriation in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2), for the
5 purpose of assisting a housing authority to avoid termination of U.S.
6 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing
7 choice vouchers that would otherwise be lost as the result of reductions in
8 federal funding.

9 (b) If funds are transferred for this purpose, they may be made available to
10 a housing authority for one of the following purposes:

11 (1) to maintain a current housing assistance payment in use or to prevent
12 the retirement of a housing assistance payment currently in use by the housing
13 authority; or

14 (2) with prior approval from HUD, to provide funding to a housing
15 authority in order to prevent the termination of assistance to current housing
16 choice voucher participants.

17 (c) If funds are transferred for this purpose, an affirmative vote of the
18 majority of a housing authority's commissioners shall be required prior to a
19 housing authority requesting funds.

20 (d) If funds are transferred for this purpose, the designated State entity
21 shall:

1 (1) establish procedures for validating that such expenditures conform to
2 applicable HUD requirements and are a necessary and proper expense prior to
3 issuing funds; and

4 (2) ensure that access to funds authorized by this section is made
5 available to all housing authorities across the State.

6 (e) As used in this section, “housing authority” has the same meaning as in
7 24 V.S.A. § 4002.

1 Sec. 86. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.330 is added to read:

2 Sec. E.330 DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING;

3 VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

4 (a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.330 of this act, \$80,000

5 shall be granted to the Vermont Center for Independent Living to provide

6 home delivered meals to people with disabilities younger than age 60.

1 Sec. 87. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.334.1 is added to read:

2 Sec. E.334.1 DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND INDEPENDENT
3 LIVING; NURSING HOME EMERGENCY FISCAL
4 RELIEF; AREA AGENCIES ON AGING; TIER 1
5 RESIDENTIAL CARE

6 (a) Of the \$14,500,000 Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.334.1
7 of this act: \$35,226 shall be used to increase payments to Area Agencies on
8 Aging beginning April 1, 2026, \$267,888 shall be used to increase payments to
9 Tier 1 Enhanced Residential Care facilities beginning April 1, 2026, and
10 \$14,196,886 shall be used for Nursing Home Emergency Financial Relief.

1 Sec. 88 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.333.1 is added to read:

2 Sec. E.333.1 DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM;

3 FUNDING

4 (a) Of the Global Commitment appropriation in Sec. B.333 of this act,

5 \$9,500,000 shall be for one-time transition funding for the first year of

6 Developmental Disabilities Services Home and Community-based Services

7 payment reform implementation.

1 Sec. XX. DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM;
2 IMPLEMENTATION

3 (a)(1) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent
4 Living shall adjust the development disabilities home- and community-based services
5 payment model to reflect per-member, per-month payments to designated and
6 specialized service agencies that are calculated based on a minimum-assumed
7 utilization rate of 65 percent. Reconciliation shall occur in compliance with the
8 developmental disability services home- and community-based services payment
9 reform rules and the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.

10 (2) To support the ongoing success of those designated and specialized service
11 agencies in need of financial stabilization in advance of reconciliation, each agency
12 currently below the 65 percent threshold and requiring financial stabilization funding
13 at this time shall prepare and submit a financial stabilization plan to the Department
14 on or before October 1, 2027. The Department shall review the stabilization plan and
15 work with the proposing agencies toward the goal of stabilization and sustainability.

16 (b) For collective sustainability and the success of Vermont's developmental
17 services system, the designated and specialized service agencies shall submit to the
18 Department on or before March 15, 2026, all information deemed necessary by the
19 Department to enable it to perform a comprehensive fiscal analysis and to implement
20 resolutions to address barriers that inhibit an increase service delivery utilization.

21 (c)(1) On or before June 30, 2026, the Agency of Human Services and the
22 Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Vermont Health
23 Access shall convene a meeting with the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees
24 on Appropriations, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate
25 Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees, and with the designated and
26 specialized service agencies and other key members of the developmental disabilities

1 services delivery system. At the meeting, the parties shall discuss efforts that support
2 the growth of a sustainable developmental service delivery system in which:

3 (A) increased service utilization meets the needs and goals of individuals
4 and families and drives the designated and specialized service agencies' success;

5 (B) Medicaid compliance is assured; and

6 (C) all State and federal rules are adhered to.

7 (2) At the meeting, the parties shall also develop and recommend concrete
8 solutions to mitigate short-term financial impacts and Medicaid compliance
9 risks associated with the implementation of developmental services payment reform,
10 to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

11 (d) On or before April 15, 2026, the Department shall submit a written progress
12 report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on
13 Health and Welfare detailing recommended solutions, anticipated fiscal impacts to the
14 designated and specialized service agencies, implementation timelines, and
15 compliance safeguards, including how measures, such as the transitional utilization
16 methodology, shall ensure continuity of care, prevent service disruption, and mitigate
17 Medicaid compliance risks for providers and the State during the first year of payment
18 reform implementation, to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

19 (e) If funds previously appropriated to the Agency of Human Services are
20 insufficient to provide the State match needed to make the payment adjustment in
21 subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall
22 unreserve an amount of funds equal to the deficiency from the Human Services
23 Caseload Reserve.