

H. 493 – Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act

As Recommended and proposed to be amended

by the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2026 Budget¹

(\$ millions)	General Funds	Federal Funds	Transportation Funds	Education Funds	All other funds	Unduplicated totals
FY 2025 as amended by H.493	\$2,268.50	\$3,180.56	\$373.70	\$2,310.70	\$603.28	\$8,736.74
FY 2026	\$2,471.16	\$3,153.50	\$359.15	\$2,430.44	\$674.58	\$9,096.82
FY 2026 change over FY 2025	\$210.65	-\$27.07	-\$14.55	\$119.74	\$71.30	\$360.08

Note: amounts reflect unduplicated appropriations and only include bills directly tied to the Appropriations Act. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE OVERVIEW

This budget is built upon the January 2025 official consensus revenue forecast of \$2,403.7 million in addition to other General Fund revenue sources of \$141.6 million. After recognizing the cost of potential additional tax exemptions, projected at \$10.0 million, the total available fiscal year General Fund revenue to support this budget is \$2,535.3 million. This budget also relies on carryforward funds from fiscal year 2025 in the amount of \$139.0 million, bringing total General Fund sources to \$2,674.3 million.

BUDGET CONTEXT

This budget addresses many of the ongoing challenges Vermont faces, including the end of COVID-related federal funding. All statutorily-required reserves are filled, all pension obligations are met, and essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, and education are made.

To develop this budget, the Senate Committee on Appropriations worked with administration officials, standing committees and many interested stakeholders, including members of the public and legislators who testified at public hearings or submitted written testimony. General Fund appropriations total \$2,479.1 million and \$195.2 million is transferred to other funds and reserves. Total appropriations from all funds (unduplicated) are \$9.1 billion.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BASE APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSING

- Fully funds the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) at statutory level of \$36.9 million
- Provides \$2.0 million to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program (MHIR)
- Adds \$1.6 million to the base budget for the Land Access Opportunity Board
- Provides \$29.7 million for the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) that assists homeless individuals, increasing the base by \$3.35 million

HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides a 5.5% rate increase for infant and toddler care in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) in the Department for Children and Families – Child Development Division (DCF – CDD)
- Maintains \$19 million in General Fund for Child Care Financial Assistant Program
- Adds \$150,000 for child care worker apprenticeship program stipends

¹ The full Big Bill web report is available at:

[https://ljfo.vermont.gov/custom_reports/reports/BigBill/v1/FY%202026%20Big%20Bill%20Senate%20Web%20Report\(13\).html](https://ljfo.vermont.gov/custom_reports/reports/BigBill/v1/FY%202026%20Big%20Bill%20Senate%20Web%20Report(13).html)



- Provides \$5.1 million General Fund (\$12.1 million Global Commitment) for a 2% increase for Designated Agencies, Specialized Service Agencies, and other non-Home Health Agency service providers
- Adds \$360,000 General Fund (\$855,000 Global Commitment) for alternatives to Emergency Room beds
- Funds Howard Center Outreach Program with \$160,000 General Fund and First Call grants that embed clinicians in pediatric offices with \$249,411 General Fund

HEALTH CARE

- Provides \$4.5 million General Fund (\$10.9 million Global Commitment) to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) for 2% rate increases
- Adds \$2.8 million General Fund (\$6.8 million Global Commitment) for match for Home and Community Based Services based on 2023 Rate Study
- Provides funds and six positions to the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) related to the expansion of AHEAD and other health care reform initiatives including reference-based pricing (per S.126)
- Adds \$15.4 million Global Commitment for statutory nursing home rate increase and nursing home beds
- Provides \$5.7 million General Fund for the Vermont Veterans' Home budget

OTHER

- Sets aside \$27.8 million General Fund in anticipation of the Pay Act
- Removes \$20.2 million Transportation Fund from the Department of Public Safety (DPS), making the funds available for transportation related projects
- Provides a 3% increase to the University of Vermont (UVM), Vermont State Colleges (VSC), and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)
- Adds \$3.8 million to the Judiciary for Tech Fund revenue replacement and \$200,000 for security services cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- Adds \$650,000 to Sheriffs to restore vacancy savings, allowing transport deputy positions to be filled, and adds two transport deputies
- Adds \$650,000 to the State's Attorneys to restore vacancy savings and adds one Fiscal and IT staff
- Establishes two new positions at the Human Rights Commission
- Adds funds to support a new Canine Trainer at the Criminal Justice Council
- Adds \$450,000 for community-based services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSING

- \$30.5 million for Emergency Housing
- \$2.0 million in DCF's Office of Economic Opportunity for shelter bed expansion
- \$5.0 million for VHCB housing initiatives
- \$4.1 million for Vermont Housing Improvement Program 2.0 (VHIP) funding and position
- \$13.5 million for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program and VHFA Rental Revolving Loan Fund
- \$1 million for the VHFA First Generation Homebuyer Program
- \$9.1 million for the Vermont Bond Bank Infrastructure Sustainability Fund



- \$235,000 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) for the HomeShare Program
- \$220,000 to Agency of Administration for IDEAL VT

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

- \$4.4 million to AHS for Support and Services at Home (SASH) and Blueprint for Health programs
- \$840,000 to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) for Comprehensive Payment Reform
- \$3.1 million to DVHA for the OneCare Primary Care Transition
- \$40,000 to the Department of Health (VDH) for Empty Arms Vermont
- \$800,000 to VDH for Recovery Residences utilizing Substance Misuse Prevention funding
- \$200,000 to VDH for youth mentoring services utilizing Substance Misuse Prevention funding
- \$240,000 to VDH and \$9.5 million transferred to Environmental Contingency Fund for use by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) testing and remediation
- \$250,000 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for facility conversion for treatment services

HIGHER EDUCATION

- \$5.0 million to VSC for transformation bridge funding
- \$1.5 million to VSAC for Freedom and Unity grants
- \$750,000 to UVM for the Vermont Gallium Nitride Tech Hub

OTHER

- Transfers \$77.2 million General Fund to the Education Fund be used for property tax relief
- \$1.0 million base appropriation for four years to the Agency of Education (AOE) for education transformation and capacity building
- \$450,000 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus programs
- \$500,000 to AAFM for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program
- \$600,000 match for a cybersecurity grant and \$800,000 for mobile and portable radio equipment in DPS
- \$10,000 for the USS Vermont Support Group
- \$1.1 million for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- \$148,000 to the Treasurer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)
- \$500,000 to Public Safety for Urban Search and Rescue
- \$68,737 to the Vermont Arts Council for federal match
- \$150,000 to the Department of Labor (DOL) for Advance Vermont
- \$1.6 million to the Department of Human Resources (DHR) for modernization of the classification system
- \$50,000 to DEC for Municipal Wastewater Connections Database
- \$850,000 to DEC for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation database project
- Includes additional support for communities impacted by recent flooding events
- Appropriates \$14.1 million from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for capital projects
- Transfers \$1 million to a new Farm Security Special Fund

