



House Appropriations- Budget Public Hearing

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February 13th, 2025

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England proudly serves nearly 16,000 Vermonters across seven health centers—in Burlington, Williston, St. Johnsbury, Barre, White River Junction, Rutland, and Brattleboro—as well as statewide through our telehealth program. Every day, people turn to us for compassionate, high-quality, and affordable reproductive and sexual health care, including wellness exams, birth control, STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, abortion care, gender-affirming care, and essential primary care services. No one is turned away based on their ability to pay. In fact, 54% of our patients have low incomes, and last year alone, we provided \$1.3 million in free and discounted care to Vermont communities—a significant increase from \$802,000 the previous year.

Access to family planning services strengthens entire communities. These services empower individuals, support families, and create a healthier, more economically stable Vermont. We recognize the challenges facing our health care system, and we believe that working together—providers, policymakers, and community members—will help us build stronger, more equitable care for all.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of Vermont’s legislature in ensuring that everyone who calls Vermont home has access to the care they deserve. At PPNNE, we are committed to being part of the solution. One way to make meaningful progress is by raising the Medicaid reimbursement rates for the Family Planning service codes.

Medicaid provides an enhanced federal match rate of 90/10 for family planning services, meaning that the federal government would be covering 90% of the increased rate.

While this initiative would provide critical support to PPNNE, it’s important to recognize that it would uplift the work of all health care providers across Vermont who are dedicated to delivering these essential services. From OBGYNs to free clinics, these providers are on the frontlines, ensuring that low-income Vermonters receive the care they need and deserve.

Today, I ask for your support in creating a Medicaid Supplemental Reimbursement for Core Family Planning Services for family planning providers in Vermont. With a modest state investment of approximately \$85,317, we have an opportunity to leverage a 9:1 federal match, unlocking \$853,168 in additional funding for essential services for PPNNE.

This is more than just a financial investment—it's an investment in the health, dignity, and future of Vermonters. Together, we can strengthen access to care, support the providers who show up every day for our communities, and ensure that Vermont remains a leader in reproductive health.