

## **FY26 BUDGET BILL -FUNDING & LANGUAGE**

March 31, 2025

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# Please support the Medicaid rate increase for Designated and Specialized Service Agencies to help keep the lights on:

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Designated and Specialized Service Agencies are currently in the House version of the FY26 Budget Bill (H.493) with a 2% rate increase - thank you!

The Ask

For FY26, a 6.2% Medicaid rate increase is needed to keep the lights on for our system of care - this equates to roughly \$13.95M in General Fund dollars

The Impact

We are providing essential state services to Vermonters. When our funding decreases it impacts our ability to support the full continuum of care is limited and erodes a critical safety net for individuals and families. When we do this, we place demands on other, more costly services and sectors

### Please Support our DS Payment Reform Language in H.493:

Sec. E.333 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES; PAYMENT REFORM

(a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living's payment reform process for developmental disability services shall not be implemented prior to July 1, 2026. (b) Between July 1, 2025 and implementation of the payment reform process for developmental disability services, the Department shall align conflict-free case management with the existing payment model.

#### **Rationale:**

- DS payment reform is an important initiative that the VCP network **FULLY SUPPORTS**; it is not federally mandated and does not have a specific implementation deadline like Conflict-Free Case Management.
- The model is still evolving and several key details remain unclear. With the implementation date approaching quickly (10/1/25), there may not be enough time to fully review and refine all important components. Introducing a process that is not fully vetted can create challenges directly impacting those receiving services - including risk of service reduction and loss of housing.
- Agency budgets, due for review in June, need more complete information to accurately plan.





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	CPI <b>Calendar</b> year	Inflationary Appropriation, DMH/DAIL	Variance bet/ DMH,DAIL and CPI	Inflationary Appropriation, DSU	Variance bet/ DSU and CPI
FY08	5.00%	4.00%	-1.00%	0.00%	-5.0%
FY09	-1.17%	-1.25%	-0.08%	0.00%	1.2%
FY10	1.70%	0.00%	-1.70%	0.00%	-1.7%
FY11	3.36%	-2.00%	-5.36%	0.00%	-3.4%
FY12	1.45%	-2.50%	-3.95%	0.00%	-1.5%
FY13	1.55%	0.00%	-1.55%	0.00%	-1.5%
FY14	1.90%	3.00%	1.10%	1.50%	-0.4%
FY 15	0.00%	0.22%	0.22%	0.20%	0.2%
FY 16	0.80%	0.48%	-0.32%	0.00%	-0.8%
FY 17	1.50%	2.00%	0.50%	0.20%	-1.3%
FY 18	2.60%	2.10%	-0.50%	0.00%	-2.6%
FY 19	1.60%	3.80%	2.20%	0.00%	-1.6%
FY 20	1.60%	2.29%	0.69%	0.00%	-1.6%
FY 21	3.92%	0.00%	-3.92%	0.00%	-3.9%
FY 22	6.97%	3.00%	-3.97%	3.00%	-4.0%
FY 23	3.45%	8.00%	4.55%	5.00%	1.6%
FY 24	3.38%	5.00%	1.62%	4.25%	0.9%
FY 25	3.00%	3.00%	0.00%	3.00%	0.0%
Cummulative	42.61%	31.14%	-11.47%	17.15%	-25.46%

### Key:

**CPI** – Consumer Price Index

**DMH** – Department of Mental Health

**DAIL** – Department of Disability, Aging, and Independent Living

**DSU** – Department of Substance Use (VDH)

#### Chart 1 Turnover, Vacancy vs rate increases





