

# H. 493 – Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act

## As Introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations

*Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2026 Budget<sup>1</sup>*

(\$ millions)	General Funds	Federal Funds	Transportation Funds	Education Funds	All other funds	Unduplicated totals
FY 2025 BAA (H.489 as passed by the House)	\$2,275.06	\$3,180.56	\$373.70	\$2,310.60	\$603.38	\$8,743.30
FY 2026	\$2,440.60	\$3,152.10	\$359.69	\$2,429.50	\$683.02	\$9,064.91
FY 2026 change over FY 2025	\$165.54	-\$28.46	-\$14.01	\$118.90	\$79.64	\$321.61

*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 \$113.6 million. After recognizing the cost of potential additional tax exemptions, projected at \$13.5 million, the total available fiscal year General Fund revenue to support this budget is \$2,503.8 million. This budget also relies on carryforward funds from fiscal year 2025 in the amount of \$136.0 million, bringing total General Fund sources to \$2,639.8 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 House 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 \$2.4 billion and \$187.7 million is transferred to other funds and reserves. Total appropriations from all funds (unduplicated) are \$9.0 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

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

- Provides a 4.5% 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)
- Funds the 2-1-1 call contract for 24/7 service
- Provides \$5.1 million General Fund (\$12.1 million Global Commitments) for a 2% increase for Designated Agencies, Specialized Service Agencies, and other non-Home Health Agency service providers
- Adds \$360,000 General Fund 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

<sup>1</sup> The full Big Bill web report is available at: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/H-0493/H-0493%20As%20Introduced.pdf>



## HEALTH CARE

- Provides \$4.5 million General Fund (\$10.9 million gross) for Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) rate increases
- Adds \$2.8 million General Fund (\$6.8 million gross) for match for Home and Community Based Service Rate Study increase
- Provides funds to the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) related to the expansion of the AHEAD
- Adds \$15.4 million Global Commitment for statutory nursing home rate increase and nursing home rebase
- Adds \$5.7 million General Fund to the Vermont Veteran's 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.
- Fully funds the Adult Education and Literacy Program
- Provides a 3% increase to the University of Vermont (UVM), Vermont State Colleges (VSC), and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)
- Adds \$1.3 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
- Adds \$650,000 to the State's Attorneys to restore vacancy savings
- Establishes two new positions in the Human Rights Commission
- Adds funds to support a Canine Trainer at the Criminal Justice Council
- Adds \$450,000 for community-based services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- Provides \$500,000 to the Vermont Emergency Management that can be used for responsive readiness for Vermont Foodbank for food distribution

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## **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 VHIP funding and one position
- \$10.0 million for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program
- \$7.5 million for the VHFA Rental Revolving Loan Fund
- \$7.5 million for the Vermont Bond Bank Infrastructure Sustainability Fund
- \$2.0 million to DHCD for housing development assistance
- \$235,000 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) for the HomeShare Program
- \$15,000 to DHCD for the Residential Universal Design Study Committee



## 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 OneCare Primary Care Transition
- \$40,000 to the Department of Health (VDH) for Empty Arms Vermont
- \$300,000 to VDH for Recovery Residences
- \$240,000 to VDH and \$5,520,000 Environmental Contingency Fund to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) testing and remediation
- \$200,000 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for facility conversion for treatment services

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- \$5.0 million to VSC for transformation bridge funding
- \$500,000 for the Community College of Vermont (CCV) Tuition Advantage Program
- \$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 reform initiatives
- \$4.0 million to the Agency of Education (AOE) for education transformation and capacity building
- \$300,000 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) for a grant to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for the Crop Cash Program
- \$500,000 to AAFM for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program
- \$600,000 match for 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)
- \$68,737 to the Vermont Arts Council for federal match
- \$200,000 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 Confined Animal Feeding Operating Permitting Transition
- Includes additional support for communities impacted by recent flooding events
- Appropriates \$11.3 million from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for capital projects

