

Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) - Recovery & Revitalization Efforts (SFY22 & SFY23)

Medicaid Rates

1. SFY22 Nursing Facilities Industry-Wide Medicaid Rate Adjustment: All nursing facilities received an across-the-board retroactive 9.18% Medicaid rate adjustment back to 7/1/22 for a total of approximately \$4.5M, to help offset the high cost of contract traveling staff.
2. SFY22 Special Medicaid Rates: Effective April 2022, the Medicaid rate for certain special nursing facility incentive payments was increased by \$50/day.
3. SFY23 Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Rate Increase: Through [Act 185](#), the legislature appropriated an 8% increase for DAIL Medicaid home and community-based services and \$1.5M for financial stability to Adult Day providers effective 7/1/22. This affects home health, residential care, assisted living, adult day, area agencies on aging, and developmental services.
4. SFY23 Independent Direct Support Workers CBA: The State renegotiated the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the representative for Independent Director Support Workers who are hired by people who self-manage their in-home services. The new CBA was effective 7/1/22 and sets a minimum wage for all HCBS Medicaid programs. The new CBS includes:
 - Employers can opt to pay more, but not less .5% wage increase or \$0.25/hour above VT minimum wage, whichever is higher.
 - Workforce retention incentive payments in SFY23 at \$2,500/\$1,500 depending on hours worked, and in SFY24 at \$1,000/\$500 depending on hours worked.
 - Increased the minimum wages to \$13.44/hour, or .25 per hour above Vermont's minimum wage, whichever is higher.
5. Medicaid Rate Reviews: The Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living is working with the Department of Vermont Health Access and relevant provider stakeholders, to perform rate reviews for three specific provider groups. A report is due to the legislature January 2023.
 - Residential Care/Assisted Living
 - Adult Day
 - Home Health Personal Care and Homemaker Services

Emergency Financial Relief

1. DVHA Rate Setting - Nursing Facility Financial Relief: Current rate regulations allow nursing facilities to apply to DVHA for extraordinary financial relief or emergency rate adjustments, if they are struggling financially.
2. LTC Facility Emergency COVID Assistance: COVID Contingency Funds/General Funds grants to assist long-term care facilities experiencing COVID situations/outbreaks and staffing pool contract with TLC to provide emergency staffing.
3. SFY23 Adult Day Financial Support: \$5M general funds to support adult day operations.

Workforce Recruitment & Retention

1. June 2022 AHS Premium Pay for Workforce Recruitment and Retention: The legislature through [Act 83](#) appropriated approximately \$60M to the Agency of Human Services to provide one-time workforce retention/recruitment payments to health care and direct care workers across our system of care.
2. Workforce Development Act 183: Vermont passed an act related to economic and workforce development to attract and retain health care workers in the state.
3. HireAbility: DAIL HireAbility Business Account Managers have ongoing relationships with many Home Health Agencies and SNFs across the state to connect job seekers with employers who are hiring.
4. Money Follows the Person Grant (MFP): DAIL MFP Grant and HireAbility are collaborating to support healthcare and personal care career development through scholarships and mentorships.
5. Workforce Promotion: DAIL is planning a Direct Care Workforce Promotion Campaign in CY 2023.

Crisis Capacity/Complex Care/Hospital Flow

1. RFP for Specialized Care in a Nursing Facility: DAIL, together with DVHA, DOC and DMH, completed an RFP and are negotiating a contract with a vendor who will provide specialized care in a Vermont nursing facility. The intent is to serve people who would otherwise be difficult to place and remain in hospitals, jail or out of state facilities for lack of Vermont options. The model is expected to be available in CY 2023.
2. SFY22 & SFY23 Nursing Facility Bed Grants: In SFY22, the DAIL awarded over \$5M in targeted grants to help 7 SNFs reopen beds over 120 SNF beds that had been taken offline due to lack of affordable staff. In SFY23, working to award an additional \$1.2M grants to 4 SNFs to bring on up to an additional 65 beds through early 2023.
3. Bed Board: DAIL is working with DMH to expand the DMH bedboard to include SNFs. The goal is to bring SNFs on board early 2023 and create a plan for other state licensed long-term care facilities.
4. DS Crisis System: DAIL's Developmental Services Division contracted with Upper Valley Services to bring an additional two crisis beds online in Fall 2022. DAIL also hired a temporary Continuum of Crisis Care Project Manager to focus solely on identification of crisis needs across the DS system of care. This work is top priority and will commence in late January 2023.
5. Long-Term Care (LTC) Medicaid Eligibility Process: DVHA implemented processes and staffing changes to expedite the LTC financial eligibility process for Choices for Care applicants and is exploring ways to potentially expand "Waiver While Waiting", a fast track eligibility process used for applicants who are likely to be found eligible for long-term care Medicaid.