



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Global Commitment Register

June 29, 2022

GCR 22-067
FINAL

Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Waiver

Policy Summary:

On June 28, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a five- and half-year renewal of Vermont's Global Commitment to Health (Global Commitment) 1115 demonstration, an agreement with the federal government that gives Vermont flexibility in how it uses its Medicaid dollars. Since 2005, in addition to providing Medicaid coverage for approximately 200,000 Vermonters, the Global Commitment demonstration has enabled crucial funding for public health, health care, and health-related services for all Vermonters, regardless of whether they are enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare, have commercial insurance, or are uninsured. With this infrastructure, Vermont has nearly universal health coverage and one of the healthiest populations in the nation (despite also being one of the oldest).

The newly approved agreement, which will be in effect from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2027, gives Vermont precedent-setting flexibilities that cement its role as a national leader in health care coverage and payment and delivery innovation. The approval also offers Vermont additional tools to leverage Medicaid to support Vermont's providers as they recover from the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new agreement includes:

- **More Dollars for Innovation in Vermont's Health Care System.** The new agreement grants Vermont the ability to spend 32% more than before for public health programs and services addressing social factors that influence health.
- **Flexibility to Adjust Provider Rates.** The state has flexibility to adjust provider rates so that they can continue to provide needed services to Vermonters.
- **Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment.** Vermont is the first state in the nation able to use Medicaid funds to expand access to substance use treatment services for individuals whose income is above Medicaid limits.
- **Sustainable Support for the Lund Home.** Vermont is the first state to obtain Medicaid funding for maternal health and treatment services offered in a residential facility.
- **Access to Supportive Housing.** Vermont obtained approval to implement a pilot program that will help people covered by Medicaid secure and maintain housing based on their needs.

- **Strengthening Data Sharing.** Mental health, substance use, and long-term services providers will have access to health information technology funding for tools to manage and improve Vermonters' health.

CMS is also taking steps in this demonstration extension to reinforce and ensure the authorized programs offering HCBS comply with HCBS rules and regulations. Following a review of information and stakeholder feedback, CMS determined the state's five HCBS programs do not separate case management from the direct service providers; therefore, the state is out of compliance with 42 CFR section § 441.730(b). CMS directed Vermont to submit a corrective action plan (CAP) that outlines the state's process to reach full compliance with conflict of interest regulations. On December 17, 2021, Vermont submitted the plan for CMS review, and CMS and Vermont are working together to finalize the plan. Once approved, the CAP will be appended to the STCs as Attachment Q.

The new 1115 waiver agreement and other waiver information can be accessed here: [1115 Waiver Documents | Agency of Human Services \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Effective Date:

July 1, 2022

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#)

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:

The Global Commitment to Health 1115 demonstration is budget neutral.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.