

Home and Community-Based Services Grant Opportunity

Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Myers and Stauffer LC (MSLC)

Introduction

- ▶ The Agency of Human Services (AHS) is planning to launch several grant opportunities for HCBS providers and community-based organizations that primarily serve Medicaid members with HCBS needs.
- ▶ Will award up to \$20M in grants funded through [Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act.](#)
- ▶ Four ***proposed*** grant funding opportunities for feedback.

What are HCBS Services?

- ▶ *HCBS include medical and non-medical services that are provided in a home or community-based setting rather than an institutional setting.*
- ▶ *A variety of populations receive HCBS to assist with daily living.*
- ▶ *Examples of HCBS include home health care, personal care services (dressing, bathing etc.), case management, and substance use disorder treatment.*

Medicaid State Plan Services	HCBS Authorized under 1115 waiver
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Health Care• Personal Care Services• Case Management• School Based Services• Rehabilitative Services• Private Duty Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brain Injury Program• Developmental Disability Services• Choices for Care• Community Rehabilitation and Treatment• Children's Mental Health

What HCBS provider organizations will likely be eligible for one or more funding tracks?

- ▶ Home Health Agencies
- ▶ Adult Day Facilities
- ▶ Designated Agencies
- ▶ Specialized Services Agencies
- ▶ Preferred Providers
- ▶ Area Agencies on Aging
- ▶ Therapeutic Community Residences
- ▶ Brain Injury Providers
- ▶ Family Supportive Housing Providers
- ▶ Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- ▶ Therapy Provider contracted by a Home Health Agency
- ▶ Assistive Community Care Services Providers
- ▶ Department of Children and Families Residential Treatment Providers
- ▶ Medicaid-enrolled Parent Child Centers
- ▶ Children's Integrated Services Fiscal Agents
- ▶ Applied Behavior Analysis Providers

How are community-based organizations defined under this funding opportunity?

- ▶ Organizations will need to demonstrate through their application that they primarily serve Medicaid members with HCBS needs.
- ▶ **Examples** of community-based organizations may include:
 - ▶ Advocacy organizations
 - ▶ Community Action Agencies
 - ▶ Homeless Shelter and Service Providers
 - ▶ Peer-run Organizations
 - ▶ Recovery Organizations
 - ▶ Senior Centers
- ▶ Where appropriate, partnerships between HCBS providers and community-based organizations are also encouraged.

Project Priorities

1

Address Service
System Needs

2

Promote Quality
and Accessibility

3

Drive Innovation
and Sustainability

4

Prioritize Equity

5

Focus on people
who receive HCBS
Medicaid services

Grant Plan

- ▶ Fixed Grant Period - ensures equitable opportunity to apply across all eligible organizations.
- ▶ Four Funding Tracks
- ▶ Electronic Grant Application - simplifies & standardizes data collection and scoring.
- ▶ Accountability - grantees submit post-award outcome results and final report using a State template.

Grant Timeline



Stakeholder Engagement

Currently active



Grant Application Period

Application release summer 2023
Applications open for 4-6 weeks
Applications scored



Grants Awarded

Grant award notifications
released fall 2023



Grants Fully Expended

Funds must be fully expended by
the end of 2024

Proposed Grant Tracks

Eligible Organizations



Infrastructure
Improvement

HCBS Providers



Workforce Development

HCBS Providers, CBOS,
and additional
organizations



Care Model Innovation

HCBS Providers, CBOS,
and additional
organizations



Organizational
Performance
Improvement

HCBS Providers

Track 1: Infrastructure Improvements

- ▶ Infrastructure improvement grants offer one-time, long-term investments that can be used to support improvements to physical infrastructure and facilities. This grant track is intended to expand services and capabilities, enabling providers to meet the evolving needs of their communities.
- ▶ Examples of projects that may be funded:
 - ▶ Improve facilities' accessibility and compliance with the ADA
 - ▶ Expand capacity in community settings
 - ▶ Ensure compliance with HCBS settings requirements
 - ▶ HVAC system upgrades
 - ▶ Increase building energy efficiency such as replacing leaky windows

Track 1: Target Audience

- ▶ HCBS providers that are fully compliant with the HCBS settings criteria or will become compliant due to improvements funded through this grant opportunity
- ▶ Other HCBS providers offering Medicaid State Plan outpatient services

Track 2: Workforce Development

- ▶ This track aims to enhance professional development among HCBS providers and promote employee retention and growth, while also supporting initiatives to enhance equipment and technology that improves staff productivity and reduces administrative burden.
- ▶ Funding towards projects that:
 - ▶ Expand training opportunities
 - ▶ Promote employee attainment of certifications and other career advancement opportunities
 - ▶ Enable mentorship opportunities
 - ▶ Enhance job satisfaction and morale for HCBS direct care workers
 - ▶ Equipment and secure technology purchases that reduce administrative burden and improve staff productivity and experience,
 - ▶ I.e., tablets that allow direct care staff to enter data at the point of care or equipment to support remote work.
 - ▶ Ineligible expenses include:
 - ▶ Employee retention and recruitment bonuses
 - ▶ Purchase of Care Coordination Tools and Electronic Health Records

Track 2: Target Audience

- ▶ HCBS Providers
 - ▶ Can include partnerships between HCBS providers with a lead provider or a membership organization with letters of commitment from HCBS providers
- ▶ Educational institutions
 - ▶ i.e. Colleges or universities, seeking to enhance their healthcare curriculum or develop skills and training programs
- ▶ School districts or schools that serve children with HCBS needs or employ HCBS direct care workers
- ▶ Workforce development organizations that focus on HCBS and healthcare
- ▶ Community-based organizations that primarily serve Medicaid members who have HCBS needs

Track 3: Care Model Innovation Pilots

Examples of projects that may be funded:



Health Related Social Needs (HRSN)

Piloting delivery of pre-tenancy supports, tenancy sustaining services, and community transition services.

Provision of medically tailored meals.

Costs associated with coordinating and delivering HRSN services, including personnel, training, and outreach.



Health Equity

Culturally responsive outreach and communication efforts, including translation services and community engagement initiatives to increase access to information about HCBS.

Resources for community advocacy projects/groups aimed at addressing health inequities among individuals who use HCBS services.



Health and Wellness

Implementation of evidence-based health and wellness interventions, such as a falls prevention program.

Costs associated with training and capacity building efforts to support program staff and individuals with HCBS needs.



Care Integration

Co-locating staff such as peers or community health workers in primary care or other health care settings.

Innovative approaches to shared care planning, providing follow-up services after hospitalization or emergency department visits, and transitions between care settings.

Utilization and effectiveness of telehealth services for remote or underserved populations.

Ineligible expenses may include construction, room and board, utility subsidies, and other exclusions.

Track 3: Target Audience

- ▶ Healthcare organizations, systems, networks or providers, including HCBS providers, hospitals that partner with an HCBS provider, clinics, community health centers who serve Medicaid members who utilize HCBS
- ▶ Community-based organizations that primarily serve Medicaid members who have HCBS needs

Track 4: Organizational Performance Improvement and Compliance Grants

- ▶ Funding to support the development or enhancement of internal policies and systems to improve access to and quality of Medicaid HCBS and/or ensure compliance with state and federal requirements.
- ▶ Funds will support project execution, and the necessary administrative staff, contractors, and materials.
- ▶ Examples of proposals may include:
 - ▶ Developing business models and business practices that reduce conflict of interest in performing assessments and care plans
 - ▶ Programming and technical assistance to integrate Admission, Discharge and Transfer notification services with other systems
 - ▶ Changing business practices to support data reporting in alternative and value-based payment model arrangements
 - ▶ Designing and implementing improved processes for data collection, timeliness and accuracy

Track 4: Target Audiences

- ▶ HCBS providers
 - ▶ Can include partnerships between HCBS providers with a lead provider or a membership organization with letters of commitment from HCBS providers

Questions?

Please submit any additional feedback to us at AHS.HCBSGrants@vermont.gov
by July 14, 2023.