



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

Global Commitment Register

May 1, 2024

GCR 24-028
FINAL

Global Commitment to Health 1115 Demonstration Amendment

Policy Summary:

On April 30, Vermont's Agency of Human Services (AHS) submitted a request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend its Global Commitment to Health (Global Commitment) demonstration. This agreement grants Vermont flexibility in utilizing Medicaid dollars.

Since its approval in 2005, the Global Commitment demonstration has played a pivotal role in broadening access to health care coverage, strengthening Vermont's public health and health-related services infrastructure, and driving reforms in health care payment and delivery. Through this amendment request, Vermont aims to expand access to care for Vermonters with mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUD), provide housing and other supports to promote whole-person health, and implement a new payment model for hospitals. Vermont's proposed amendment include the following features:

- **Make Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) and Mental Health Under 22 benefits entitlements.** CRT and Mental Health Under 22 offer mental health benefits to Vermonters with serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED). Vermont has requested to transition these benefits to being entitlements under the Medicaid program so that they are more easily accessible to Medicaid enrollees with SMI and SED.
- **Cover all costs for residential mental health and SUD treatment.** Current federal rules prohibit Medicaid from covering room and board for most stays at residential mental health and SUD treatment facilities. Vermont is requesting to cover room and board for the duration of Medicaid enrollees' medically necessary treatment at residential mental health and SUD facilities, excluding facilities that the federal government designates as institutions for mental diseases.
- **Provide new medical respite and rent/temporary housing benefits.** Vermont seeks to offer up to six months of medical respite and rent/temporary housing, as clinically indicated, to Medicaid enrollees with a history of homelessness (including if they are currently or formerly homeless) or who are at-risk of homelessness and meet other clinical eligibility criteria.
- **Support capacity building** among community-based organizations, social services providers, other community partners, and the state so that they can successfully deliver new Medicaid-covered housing services.
- **Add an environmental and assistive adaptations benefit** to the Developmental Disabilities Services benefit package.
- **Implement an innovative new way to pay hospitals for Vermonters enrolled in Medicaid.**

Vermont is also seeking Medicaid funding for justice-involved reentry services prior to release from a correctional facility, however that authority will be approved through a separate process over the next several months.

Proposed Effective Date:

January 1, 2025

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#)

Population Affected:

Vermont's entire Medicaid population – including both State Plan and expansion groups – falls under the purview of the Global Commitment demonstration.

Fiscal Impact:

No impact. The Global Commitment demonstration must be budget neutral.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period ended on April 19, 2024. Two public hearings were held during the public comment period – the first on April 5th and the second on April 10th. A summary of comments received during the public comment period is included in the [Global Commitment demonstration amendment application that was submitted to CMS](#).

Additional Information:

All documents related to the [2024 Global Commitment to Health 1115 Demonstration amendment](#) can be found on the AHS website at this link.

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