



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

Global Commitment Register

August 1, 2024

GCR 24-080
PROPOSED

Medicaid Investment: Nutritious Meals for Older Adults in Need

Policy Summary:

The Vermont Medicaid program proposes to use Medicaid Investment funding to expand the meal services program for older adults in need. The investment initiative will establish a grant program for Area Agencies on Aging, enabling them to address health-related social challenges faced by individuals aged 60 and over through meal services. This project aims to meet the needs of a diverse range of individuals, including low-income older adults, minority populations, rural residents, individuals with limited English proficiency, and those at risk of institutionalization. Services will be offered through home delivery, ensuring broad accessibility. The project will benefit individuals aged 60 and above who face difficulties with meal preparation due to physical, mental, or cognitive conditions.

Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration authorizes expenditures within annual limits for public health, health care, and health related-investments. This investment aligns with Vermont's strategic goals of enhancing public health strategies, increasing investments in social determinants of health, and strengthening programs that support low-income, uninsured, underinsured individuals and Medicaid beneficiaries in Vermont.

Effective Date:

October 1, 2024

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #6.8.

Population Affected:

HCBS

Fiscal Impact: The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$2,371,354

Public Comment Period:

August 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024

Send comments to:
Medicaid Policy Unit
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Or submit via e-mail to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

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

Additional Information:

The new investment template can be found on the following pages.

ATTACHMENT S
New Investment Application Template

For each new investment, the state must submit the following information to CMS as described in STC 11.6.

Date	08/01/24
Investment Title	Nutritious Meals for Older Adults in Need
Estimated Amount	\$2,371,354
Time Period	October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
Department	Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living
Category	Grants to Address Health-Related Social Needs
Project Objective, Targeted Outcomes, and Impact to Health Equity	
<p>The project's objective is to address hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition among older Vermonters while fostering socialization and promoting health and well-being. The Investment's success will be measured by the increase in meal provisions to low-income and rural populations, specifically evidenced by a marked increase in the frequency of home-delivered meals to isolated individuals, coupled with the successful implementation of wellness checks. The impact on health equity will be marked by increasing access to nutritious meals to low-income older Vermonters and those residing in rural areas, thereby enhancing diet and overall health.</p>	
Project Description	
<p>This must include descriptions of specific terms associated with eligibility, benefits, and services, and how the state intends to operationalize the program (e.g., population served, provider types, provider qualifications, methodology for incentive payments)</p>	
<p>The investment initiative will establish a grant program tailored for Area Agencies on Aging, empowering them to tackle health-related social challenges faced by individuals with home and community-based services (HCBS) needs through the provision of meal services. This investment aligns with Vermont's strategic aim of fostering public health strategies, enhancing investments in social determinants of health, and bolstering programs that cater to the needs of low-income, uninsured, underinsured individuals and Medicaid beneficiaries.</p> <p>This project is designed to be inclusive, catering to the needs of a wide range of individuals. It will focus on providing meal services to low-income older adults, minority populations, rural residents, individuals with limited English proficiency, and those at risk of institutionalization. The services will be available in both communal settings and through home delivery, ensuring accessibility for all. The project will particularly benefit individuals 60 and above who face challenges in meal preparation due to physical, mental, or cognitive conditions.</p> <p>To ensure the nutritional adequacy and safety of the meals, the Area Agencies on Aging employ certified nutritionists who will offer guidance and oversight to community meal preparation sites. These nutritionists will ensure that menus meet the required nutritional standards while also ensuring compliance with kitchen safety regulations. Moreover, they will be available to offer advice on menu planning and substitutions as needed.</p>	

<p>Methodologically, the program will utilize grants to support to Area Agencies on Aging to support to enhance the home delivered meals program. The grant amounts will be based on a pre-determined dollar amount for approved activities. These payments will be tied to predefined process metrics and milestones, ensuring accountability, and incentivizing successful transitions.</p>
<p>How does the state ensure there is no duplication of federal funding?</p>
<p>The Agency of Human Services operates under a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) which is approved quarterly by HHS. The CAP ensures there is no duplication of funding because total expenses are allocated to the benefitting federal program.</p>
<p>State General Funds</p>
<p>State funds are equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP.</p>
<p>How does the state ensure that the investment does not include any activities listed in STC 11.6 (Investment Approval Process)?</p>
<p>AHS staff have reviewed project descriptions to ensure that the investment does not include any activities listed in STC #11.5 and will monitor program expenditures to ensure continued compliance with this requirement</p>
<p>The state assures that in reporting cost, the state and providers must adhere to 45 CFR §75 Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Health and Human Services (HHS) Awards and 42 CFR §413 Principles of Reasonable Cost Reimbursement. Pursuant to 45 CFR §75.302(a) the state must have proper fiscal control and accounting procedures in place to permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have not been used in violation of applicable statutes. Costs must be supported by adequate source documentation.</p>