



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

Global Commitment Register

August 30, 2024

GCR 24-100
PROPOSED

Medicaid Investment: Support Service Provider Program

Policy Summary:

The Vermont Medicaid program proposes to help cover the costs of the Support Service Provider (SSP) Program. The SSP program is crucial for bridging the gap between DeafBlind (dual sensory hearing and vision loss) individuals and the world around them, enabling them to access support services, participate in activities, and maintain a higher level of autonomy and quality of life.

This program utilizes SSPs to help Vermonters who are DeafBlind to perform simple tasks like grocery shopping, getting a haircut, or scheduling an appointment. SSPs are trained professionals who act as sighted guides to assist DeafBlind individuals with communication, safe navigation, and access to information, which fosters personal independence and enhanced quality of life. The provision of these services not only enhances the physical and mental health of these individuals, but also creates valuable employment opportunities. The SSP Program has been operating successfully for two years and this investment will be used to continue the program.

Effective Date:

October 1, 2024

Authority/Legal Basis:

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

Population Affected:

Vermonters with dual sensory hearing and vision loss.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$80,000

Public Comment Period:

August 30, 2024 – September 30, 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 Medicaid Investment application for Support Service Provider Pilot Program 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	08/30/2024
Investment Title	Support Service Provider Program
Estimated Amount	\$80,000
Time Period	10/01/24
Department	Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living
Category	Provide home and community-based services and supports necessary to increase community living for individuals in Vermont at risk of needing facility-based care
Project Objective, Targeted Outcomes, and Impact to Health Equity	
<p>The targeted outcome for this investment is to provide funding for the Support Service Provider (SSP) Program. The SSP program is crucial for bridging the gap between DeafBlind (dual sensory hearing and vision loss) individuals and the world around them, enabling them to access support services, participate in activities, and maintain a higher level of autonomy. The Support Service Provider Program will track the following measures to evaluate the impact of this investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental health of consumers as evidenced by participating in recreational activities throughout the community. • Improved access to health care appointments, including those focused on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Evidenced by consumer's requesting services to attend medical appointments. 	
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>This program utilizes Support Service Providers (SSPs) to help Vermonters who are DeafBlind to perform tasks like grocery shopping, getting a haircut, or scheduling an appointment. SSPs are trained professionals who act as sighted guides to assist DeafBlind individuals with communication, safe navigation, and access to information, which fosters personal independence and enhanced quality of life. The provision of these services not only enhances the physical and mental health of these individuals, but also creates valuable employment opportunities. The SSP Program has been operating successfully for two years and this investment will be used to continue the program.</p>	
How does the state ensure there is no duplication of federal funding?	
<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>	

Source of non-federal share
State funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP from Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan act.
How does the state ensure that the investment does not include any activities listed in STC 11.6 (Investment Approval Process)?
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.
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.