

SOCIAL SERVICES

BLOCK GRANT

VERMONT HUMAN SERVICES PLAN - FY 2015

FEDERAL ASSURANCES & DOCUMENTATION

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Social Services Block Grant

The Agency of Human Services maintains the authority and responsibility for:

- the State Plan;
- the services plan;
- the projection of estimated expenditures;
- the accountability for federal funds;
- the establishing and maintaining of standards for the determination of eligibility;
- the administration or supervision of the administration for the provision of services;
- operating the program on a statewide basis;
- complying with any program reporting requirements;
- maintaining a working relationship between the state and the Deputy Secretary; and
- overall supervision, control, and oversight of block grant activities.

SERVICE PLAN

Before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Agency of Human Services makes public a report or plan on the intended use of block grant funds. Services are described and the characteristics of individuals to be served are described.

Neither the law implementing this block grant nor HHS regulations dictate details of how the state should operate its program. Nor are "assurances" required as to standards and practices the state will maintain in the program. Therefore, the parts of this document dealing with the Social Services Block Grant are not for the purpose of meeting specific regulations, but rather are for the purpose of explaining how the Social Services Block Grant will be administered in Vermont. The State of Vermont will not provide any services specifically prohibited by statute.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN

Substantial changes to the plan during the course of the year will be made public. Substantial changes are defined as follows:

- Discontinuation of Block Grant funding for a service.
- Changes in eligibility or funding that are expected to result in an increase or decrease in persons served.
- Significant change in what is being provided through a service
- Increase or decrease in client fees.
- Other changes considered significant in judgment of State Block Grant Manager.

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AUDIT

The Agency of Human Services has contracted with an independent auditing agency to audit expenditures made under Social Services Block Grant as required by 45 CFR 96.31.

When eligibility for service is based on gross monthly income, the size of family and total income must be considered even though only one individual of the family may be applying for the service. Vermont's definition of family size is "the basic family unit consisting of one or more adults and children, if any, related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and residing in the same household." Where related adults other than spouses or unrelated adults reside together, each adult is considered a separate family. Children living with non-legally responsible relatives, emancipated minors (individuals under age 18 who are physically and economically removed from their family) and children living under the care of unrelated persons, are also considered one-person families.

The definition of gross monthly income is the monthly sum of income received by an individual from the following sources: money, wages or salary; net income from self-employment; Social Security; dividends and interest on savings or bonds; income from estates or trusts; net rental income or royalties; public assistance or Welfare payments; pensions and annuities; unemployment compensation; worker's compensation; alimony; child support; and Veteran's benefits.

How to Know if you are Eligible for "Block Grant" Services

- If you are currently receiving ANFC or SSI you are income eligible for all services listed in this document.
- If you are in need of protection from others or yourself, you may be eligible, without regard to income, for counseling and intervention, child care, and legal services.
- Anyone who requests and is determined eligible for services offered by the Child Welfare and Youth Justice.
- If you need family services, you may receive them without regard to income. Depending on your net income, you may be required to pay a fee according to Fee Schedule D.
- If you are developmentally delayed, you are eligible for Assessment Placement and Monitoring Services.
- If your gross monthly income does not exceed those on Table A you are eligible for adoption, counseling and intervention for the elderly, personal services, residential treatment for the handicapped or disabled.

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FEE SCHEDULE D

FOR FAMILY PLANNING ONLY

All individuals voluntarily requesting service will be served. Most will be required to pay part of the service cost according to Fee Schedule D.

Family Size	Weekly Income as Percent of Federal Poverty Level				
	<100%	101-125%	126-250%	251-500%	>500%
1	165	206	413	826	827+
2	223	279	558	1,116	1,117+
3	281	352	703	1,407	1,408+
4	339	424	849	1,697	1,698+
5+	398	497	994	1,988	1,988+

Service	Co-payment				
Office Visit, Limited	0	16	23	32	84
Office Visit, Comprehensive	0	29	42	53	170
Office Visit, Prevention	0	29	42	53	153
Influenza Shot	4	5	5	10	20

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TABLE C

CHILD CARE FEE SCHEDULE

The following eligibility and fee schedule allows a 100% subsidy of the State established rate for all eligible families with gross monthly income at or below the levels given in Line #1. It allows partially subsidized child care services to all other eligible families with gross monthly incomes below the levels given in Line #24.

Eligible families who receive partially subsidized child care services pay any remaining fee directly to their child care provider(s).

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY SUPPORT BASED ON GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
BY FAMILY SIZE

	<u>Percent of Subsidy paid by State</u>	<u>2-3 fewer</u>	4	5	6 + Family Size	
Line 1	100%	1157	1392	1627	1862	100% poverty
Line 2	99%	1193	1436	1678	1921	
Line 3	98%	1230	1480	1730	1980	
Line 4	97%	1267	1524	1782	2040	
Line 5	96%	1303	1568	1834	2099	
Line 6	95%	1352	1628	1903	2179	
Line 7	90%	1419	1709	1998	2288	
Line 8	85%	1487	1789	2092	2396	
Line 9	80%	1560	1878	2196	2515	
Line 10	75%	1633	1966	2299	2633	
Line 11	70%	1706	2055	2403	2752	
Line 12	65%	1780	2143	2506	2871	
Line 13	60%	1853	2231	2610	2989	
Line 14	55%	1926	2320	2713	3108	
Line 15	50%	2000	2408	2817	3227	
Line 16	45%	2073	2497	2920	3345	
Line 17	40%	2146	2585	3024	3464	
Line 18	35%	2220	2673	3127	3583	
Line 19	30%	2293	3762	3231	3702	
Line 20	25%	2366	2850	3334	3820	82.5% SMI
Line 21	20%	2439	2939	3438	3939	
Line 22	15%	2513	3027	3541	4058	
Line 23	10%	2586	3115	3645	4176	

Federal Poverty and State Median Income are based on 1999 figures.

Child Care Subsidy Tuition Services are partially funded by the Social Services Block Grant.

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ADOPTION

Adoption Services is the obtaining of voluntary and involuntary release of a child from the natural family through due process of law, preparing a child to give up the natural family and to take on a new family, selecting the appropriate adoptive family, and supporting all persons involved through the finalization of the adoptive process.

ASSESSMENT, PLACEMENT AND MONITORING

Adults who are unable to look out for their own interests are provided assessment, placement and monitoring services. The services involve helping the individual with activities necessary for living in a community setting. The individuals are persons who might otherwise be residents of state institutions rather than being able to live in the community with the help of Community Mental Health Centers. Some of the activities performed by the mental health workers are: assisting individuals to attain and maintain medical treatment, making referrals to other appropriate agencies, and supervising community placements of individuals with monitoring for continued appropriateness.

COUNSELING, REFERRAL AND INTERVENTION

Counseling, referral and intervention are services available to assist individuals and families to cope with life's problems. Some persons who become social service clients need relatively brief encounters to obtain information about services available to meet their needs. Others may need to develop an ongoing relationship with a Social Worker to develop long-term goals and find lasting solutions to serious problems. Some clients voluntarily request services while others are involuntarily referred via reports of abuse or neglect or through juvenile court. Reports of child abuse and neglect or requests for service prompt an investigation and/or evaluation of the child and family's service needs. Goals of services offered include delivery of pre-placement prevention and protective services to help children safely remain with their own families, substitute care placement in the least restrictive environment consistent with the child's needs when removal is unavoidable, and adoption, legal guardianship or independent living when reunification efforts with biological parents are unsuccessful or inappropriate.

The State may obtain custody of children through a judgment of the court or voluntary agreement with parents. Once custody of a child is awarded, the State is responsible for arranging substitute care for the child as well as provision of services to the child and caretakers to facilitate adjustment and other aspects of the child's care such as room, board, recreational, educational, and medical needs.

Social workers arrange for residential placement for children ranging from "emergency shelter" to placement on a more permanent basis in foster and or/ adoptive homes. Children with emotional, behavioral or physical disabilities can be placed in specialized foster care so that specially trained people can deal effectively with the problems. The Family Services Division purchases "group home" services in about twenty-five facilities statewide if the need for this type of placement is indicated.

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Case reviews and reunification services with the child's parents and others are provided to ensure a timely return home whenever feasible. In addition to direct casework and counseling services furnished by Social Workers, information and referral services are offered to help individuals obtain access to other services in the community.

Case planning and case management services are casework services essential to the coordination of service delivery by all service providers and for monitoring progress toward case goals. While most services are state funded, many are obtained through purchase agreement with the State and may require eligibility to be established on income or service need before actual service is delivered.

Preventive and reunification services may include:

- A. 24-hour emergency caretaker, and homemaker services;
- B. child care;
- C. crisis counseling;
- D. individual and family counseling or casework services;
- E. emergency shelter;
- F. procedures and arrangements for access to available emergency financial assistance;
- G. arrangements for the provision of temporary child care to provide support to the child and family for a brief period, as part of a plan for preventing children's removal from home;
- H. other services which the agency identifies as necessary and appropriate such as home-based family services, self-help groups, services to unmarried parents, provision of or arrangements for mental health, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, vocational counseling or vocational rehabilitation; and
- I. post-adoption services.

DAILY LIVING SKILLS

Daily Living Skills is a service providing the basic education that helps adults learn living skills such as budgeting, food preparation and home maintenance. Those persons who did not master reading, writing, and arithmetic in school have the opportunity to try again at Adult Learning Centers. All centers have correspondence courses and home tutors; all centers offer individualized programs of learning.

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CHILD CARE

Child Care is the care and supervision of children whose parents work or are in training. Child care is also used as part of a service plan for children who are in home situations detrimental to their well-being. State Social Services Offices in conjunction with The Child Development Division determine eligibility, assess the need, and arrange for child care to be provided at child care facilities.

DAY WORK ACTIVITY

Day Work Activity is a service that ranges from "day care" for adults which provides association and relationships for elderly and disabled adults, to sheltered workshop settings for developmentally delayed adults which provide social and recreational activities and production of crafts and saleable products. Day Work Activity can also consist of an activity program for developmentally disabled adults.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning are those counseling, education and medical services which enable individuals to limit family size. Medical services may include diagnosis, treatment, drugs, supplies, devices and related counseling furnished, prescribed by, or under the supervision of a physician.

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Services is legal advice and representation in civil affairs. The majority of problems brought to Vermont Legal Aid involve divorce and family matters, disputes with governmental agencies, housing problems, and consumer issues. Vermont Legal Aid also provides representation for persons whose commitment is sought or being reviewed for hospitals for the mentally ill.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal Services is assistance with basic dressing, grooming, meal preparation, feeding, and other personal care for people who cannot fully care for themselves but, with some assistance, can remain in their homes, rather than live in a nursing home. Legal guardians are also arranged for individuals incapable of handling their own finances or legal matters.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED

Residential Treatment for the Handicapped or Disabled is the provision of social services in a residential facility for adults with physical or mental handicaps who do not need institutional care, yet can benefit from social services that include general supervision, assistance with employment or recreation, and training which enables such persons to cope with everyday problems. Room and board may be included as part of this service.

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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED

BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION AND REPORTS

There is a public meeting scheduled by the Agency on **August 28, 2014** to be held in the Secretary's Conference room at 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston, Vermont. The Agency of Human Services continues to encourage public influence through the budgetary and legislative processes which are described in the plan.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROPOSED AND FINAL PLANS

If any technical or editorial changes are required to be made as a result of the public hearing, they will be transmitted. Transcript of the hearing, attendance, newspaper tear sheets, letters of notification to key legislators and the interagency memo are on file in the Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office.

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Social Services Block Grant

<u>Distribution by Department</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FFY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
Secretary's Office	\$ 872,119	\$ 1,109,199	\$1,067,037
Family Services	\$8,549,546	\$8,402,854	\$8,402,854
Health Department	\$ 323,198	\$ 312,728	\$ 312,728
Mental Health Department	\$ 409,003	\$ 409,005	\$ 409,005
Dept. of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living	\$ 944,675	\$ 944,672	\$ 944,672
Total Social Services Expend.	\$ 11,036,663	\$ 11,178,461	\$ 11,136,296

Source of Funds

Federal Funds	\$ 3,225,291	\$ 3,522,813	\$ 3,226,000
Overclaim/State General Funds	\$ 3,076,054	\$ 2,920,330	\$ 3,174,978
TANF Transfer	<u>\$ 4,735,318</u>	<u>\$ 4,735,318</u>	<u>\$ 4,735,318</u>
Total	\$ 11,023,859	\$ 11,178,461	\$ 11,136,296

Block Grant Awards

FFY 2012	\$3,423,684
FFY 2013	\$3,522,813
FFY 2014	\$3,226,000

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Secretary's Office

<u>Use of Funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FFY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
<u>Goal #1</u> The Agency of Human Services purchases legal services from Vermont Legal Aid for low income persons and for persons whose commitment is sought or being reviewed for hospitals for the mentally ill.	\$379,931	\$403,276	\$403,276

APPROPRIATION:
AHS Secretary's Office

<u>Goal #2</u> The Secretary's Office is responsible for managing the Social Services Block Grant which funds programs in the Departments of Health; Children and Families; and Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. All of the Administrative costs claimed under the SSBG in AHS are included here.	<u>\$492,188</u>	<u>\$705,923</u>	<u>\$663,861</u>
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APPROPRIATION:
AHS Sec. Office
Human Svc. Bd.
DCF Admin. Dpt.
DAIL Admin
Mental Health
CMR
CMH
Central Office

Total Expenditures:	\$ 872,119	\$1,109,199	\$1,067,137
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Social Services Block Grant

Secretary's Office

GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

Goal #1

The administration of the Social Services Block Grant ensures that program objectives are congruent with AHS goals and meet all state and federal regulations. While assuring financial accountability to both state and federal governments, the Agency of Human Services allocates the Social Services Block Grant funds in such a way as to maximize the revenues to the State, and then to expend those funds as intended with no waste or errors.

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Department for Children and Families: Family Services Division

<u>Use of Funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FFY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
<u>Goal #1</u>			
To assure that legislative mandates and departmental policies are implemented for foster care programs.	\$ 451,567	\$ 661,740	\$ 661,740
<u>Goal #2</u>			
To ensure the safety and welfare of children and youth who are abused, neglected, or abandoned, or whose behaviors bring them into conflict with the law and their own best interests.	\$ 6,470,618	\$ 5,677,420	\$ 5,677,420
<u>Goal #3</u>			
To provide social services and mental health treatment programs for children in custody and children and families at risk of substitute care placements.	\$ 1,411,022	\$ 1,585,588	\$ 1,585,588
<u>Goal #4</u>			
To promote the developmental well-being of children in low income families and to support parental participation in work or education leading to employment.	\$ 216,339	\$ 478,106	\$ 478,106
Total Expenditures	\$7,848,419	\$8,402,854	\$8,402,854

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Department for Children and Families: Child Welfare and Youth Justice Division

GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

Goal 1

Services provided under this goal fund staff in twelve Department of Children and Families district and central office. Staff numbers approximately 400 and it is estimated that staff will serve a client caseload of approximately 7,600 in FY 14.

Goal 2

Services provided under this goal include foster and adoptive parent support services provided to meet room, board and supervision needs of children in custody. Approximately 1,900 children are expected to receive adoption subsidy in FFY'14.

Goal 3

Services funded under this goal provide a broad range of social and mental health treatment services delivered primarily in the community by community-based organizations or the Community Mental Health provider system. The specific services and the estimated number of families/children served are as follows:

Intensive Family Based Services	-	520
Parent Educators	-	170
Sexual Abuse Victims Counseling and Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment	-	225

Goal 4

The Child Development Division provided child care tuition assistance to support to over 8,434 children in FY'13. Child Care Services are provided through community based providers. The services support the positive developmental growth and well-being of the children in care, and allows low income families to work or go to school in order to gain employment.

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Mental Health Department

<u>Use of Funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
<u>Goal #1</u> To reduce the number of persons with severe mental illness who are admitted to or remain at Vermont State Hospital because of lack of community-based programs.			
APPROPRIATION:	\$409,003	\$409,005	\$409,005

GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

Goal #1

Social Services Block Grant funds are used to purchase residential treatment services with 24-hour supervision, professional staffing, and structured programming from designated agencies; and to enable people with severe mental illness to obtain and remain in decent, affordable, integrated housing through the provision of community supports and service coordination along with related support services for daily living. The principal indicators of goal accomplishment are admissions to the designated hospitals for psychiatric care, the number of clients assigned to Community Rehabilitation and Treatment programs, and bed days in therapeutic community residences. The ultimate purpose of these housing and home supports is to divert individuals from psychiatric inpatient hospitalization.

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Goal #1

	<u>Level 1 Admissions*</u>	<u>No. CRT Clients Served</u>	<u>Days of Housing and Home Support</u>
FY2013 (Actual)	19 + 19	2,752	54,778
FY2014 (Estimated)	158	2,725	47,172
FY2015 (Projected)	200**	2,750	50,000

*Level 1 admissions are defined as those admissions that would have been made to the Vermont State Hospital had VSH remained open after Tropical Storm Irene at the end of August 2011. Level 1 is a funding mechanism to cover the costs for the highest-acuity patients in Vermont's public mental-health system. The Department of Mental Health began using the Level 1 category on July 1, 2012.

The 194 admissions in FY 2013 were to three of Vermont's hospitals designated to receive Level 1 patients in their psychiatric units: Fletcher Allen Health Care, in Burlington; the Brattleboro Retreat; and Rutland Regional Medical Center. The 19 admissions were to the Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center (GMPCC), in Morrisville, during the six months after it opened in January 2013 as an interim replacement for the State Hospital until the completion of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Center in Berlin.

**The projection of admissions for FFY2015 is higher than the estimate for FFY2014 because of a net gain of ten inpatient beds, thus an increase in systemwide capacity.

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Health Department

<u>Use of Funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
<u>Goal #1</u>			
To provide comprehensive family planning services.			
	\$323,198	\$312,728	\$312,728

Goal #1

The major activities undertaken to accomplish goal #1 are provided through a direct services contract with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Inc. The primary indicator to be monitored is the quarterly Planned Parenthood report outlining the activities performed by the contractor. This program provides about 34,000 visits annually and a similar or increasing need is expected to continue.

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Department of Disability, Aging & Independent Living

<u>Use of funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FFY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
<u>Goal #1</u>			
Attendant Services Program			
To provide personal care services To people with permanent and Severe physical disabilities.	\$ 233,337	\$ 256,307	\$256,307
APPROPRIATION: DAIL Grants			
Number of persons served:	10	10	10
<u>Goal #2</u>			
Guardianship			
To provide guardianship Services to mentally disabled persons 60 years of age or older for whom the probate court is unable to appoint a guardian from the private sector. To utilize guardianship for mentally disabled persons only as necessary to promote the well being of the individual and to protect the individual from violations of his or her human and civil rights.	\$ 395,551	\$380,108	\$380,108
APPROPRIATION: DAIL Administration			
Number of persons served:	91	93	95

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Department of Disability, Aging & Independent Living

<u>Use of funds by Goal or Activity</u>	<u>FFY'13 Actual</u>	<u>FFY'14 Estimated</u>	<u>FFY'15 Proposed</u>
Goal #3			
Developmental Disabilities To increase the abilities of persons with developmental disabilities to function in community settings with the greatest possible independence from the mental health and human services system by providing community-based support.	\$ 253,909	\$ 308,260	\$ 308,260
Number of persons served:	4,105	4,228	4,355
APPROPRIATION: DS Grants			
Grand Total:	\$ 882,797	\$ 944,675	\$ 944,675