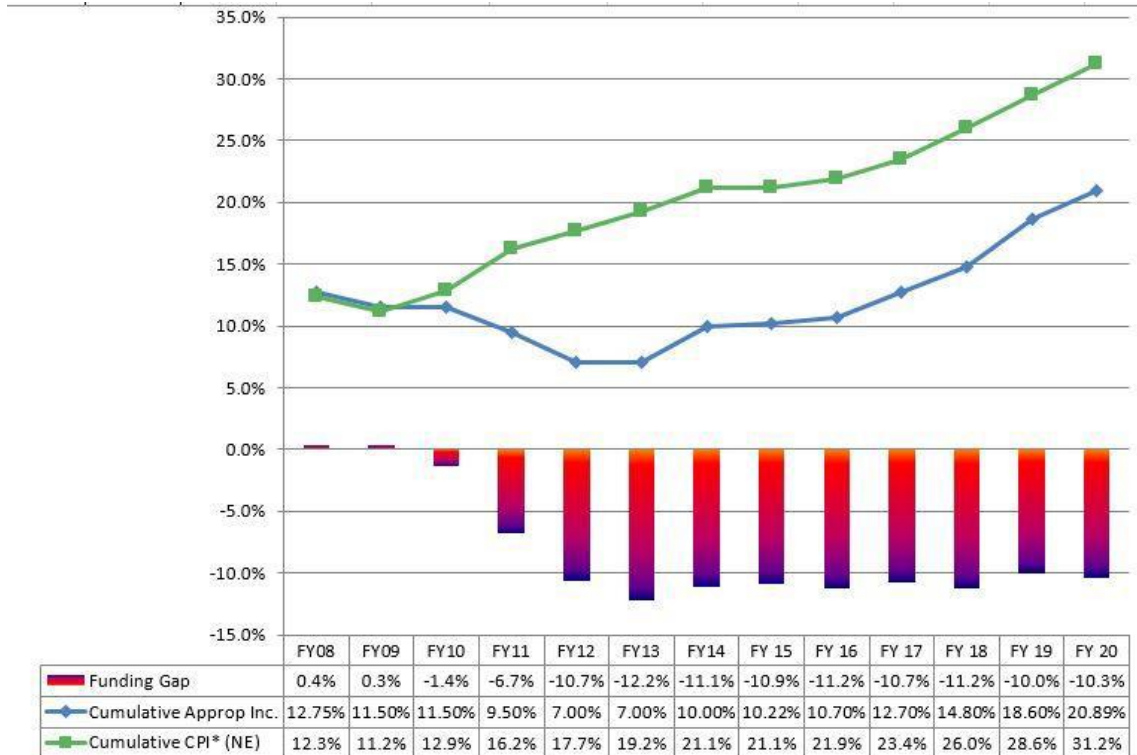




Our Priority - 3% RATE INCREASE FOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

- The State should create parity in funding for Designated and Specialized Service Agencies (DA/SSAs) with physical health care by appropriating annual rate increases in the context of increases for state employees, health care and school employees
- DA/SSA’s rates of reimbursement are insufficient to cover costs with no direct correlation between payment rates and actual cost of services

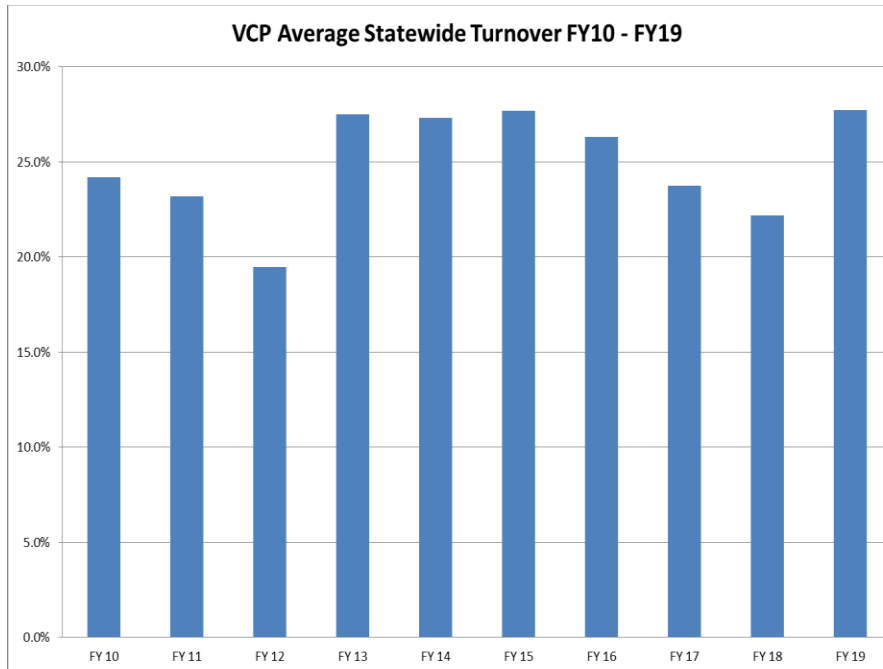
THE GAP BETWEEN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX and DA/SSA RATES IS UNSUSTAINABLE



LOW RATES HURT THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF AGENCIES - LIKE DAYS OF CASH ON HAND



LOW RATES LEAD TO LOW STAFF COMPENSATION LEVELS AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER



Compensation levels of staff are significantly below those of state employees, school and health care professionals in comparable positions, compounding recruitment and retention challenges

- 28% Staff Turnover
- Over 400 Vacant Positions
- 2 out of 10 Masters Level Licensed Clinician Positions Vacant

A 3% rate increase is about Vermont's commitment to healthy and strong families and communities. Investing in DA/SSA will ensure high quality accessible services for Vermonters to promote wellness, community safety, education, employment, and stable housing. It will strengthen the work of agencies to prevent hospital utilization, reduce involvement in law enforcement and corrections and address Vermont's high suicide rates.

Additional Funding Priorities

- Improve ADAP funding for substance use disorder treatment services
- Increase funding for Eldercare mental health services
- Educate on developmental services systems reform and develop ombudsman
- Initiate Green Mountain Care Board review of DA/SSA finances
- Invest in school-based mental health and independent therapeutic schools to enable all students to thrive
- Invest in community-based services to reduce hospital emergency department back-ups and reduce stays for psychiatric inpatients
- Promote Zero Suicide pilots and Mental Health First Aid to prevent suicide