

## 10% MEDICAID RATE INCREASE and FY24 BUDGET REQUEST For Vermont Care Partner Network Agencies

*Vermont Care Partners is a statewide network of 16 nonprofit community-based agencies that mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services and supports to over 30,000 Vermonters. This system of care is funded almost entirely through state and federal Medicaid funding appropriated by the Legislature.*

### DEMAND HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER

- Our children are struggling in school after prolonged social isolation
- Over 40% of Americans are experiencing depression and/or anxiety
- Vermont's suicide rate exceeds the national average by 30% and is rising
- Vermont's alcohol, opioid, and other drug use greatly exceeds the national average
- Nearly 1,000 Vermonters are waiting for Vermont Care Partner agency services
- Use of emergency services rose from just over 7,000 in FY19 to over 9,000 in FY21
- Children and adults in crisis are stuck for days in hospital emergency departments
- 100 people with developmental disabilities are waiting for residential support

### CATASTROPHIC WORKFORCE CRISIS CONTINUES

- In FY22 over 33% of staff at VCP network agencies left their jobs
- Vacancy rates on January 1, 2023 were over 16% for mental health and nearly 20% for developmental services
- Some developmental disability programs have vacancy rates as high as high as 30%
- Staff love their jobs but go to schools, hospitals, and other employers for higher pay
- On January 1, 2023, 1000 out of 6,280 staff positions were vacant

### IMPROVED FUNDING NEEDED – 10% MEDICAID RATE INCREASE REQUESTED

- Access to consistent, timely, and high-quality care requires adequate Medicaid rates
- Since 2006 Medicaid rates for network agencies have lagged 15% behind inflation
- After an 8% increase in FY23, staff still leave for pay raises of 10K, 20K, and 30K
- Added one-time resources like premium pay are helping but will dry up
- Investing in community-based care reduces demand for more expensive hospital care
- CPI is .6.1% any rate increase below that equals a cut, 4% more is to improve staffing
- We all prefer care in our homes and communities from a experienced and skilled staff

### FUNDING REQUEST

- 10% Medicaid Rate Increase: \$6 million GF mental health, \$9 million GF developmental disability services
- \$6 million one-time investment in Tuition Assistance and Loan Repayment
- \$1.3 million GF one-time Investment in improving mental health rate equity
- \$453,000 GF to fully fund Eldercare mental health outreach program

#### A Statewide Network Supporting Vermonters to Lead Healthy and Satisfying Lives Community by Community

Clara Martin Center · Champlain Community Services · Counseling Service of Addison County · Families First in Southern Vermont · Green Mountain Support Services · Health Care and Rehabilitation Services · Howard Center · Lamoille County Mental Health Services · Lincoln Street Inc. · NFI Vermont Inc. · Northeast Kingdom Human Services · Northwestern Counseling & Support Services · Rutland Mental Health Services/Community Care Network · United Counseling Service of Bennington County · Upper Valley Services · Washington County Mental Health Services