



H. 494 – Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Act

As Introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations

(\$ millions)	GF	FF (including ARPA)	TF	EF	All Other Fds	UnDup Total
FY23 BAA	2,100.0	3,756.2	341.7	1,961.2	489.7	8,648.8
Change - House	303.1	(617.7)	18.6	137.8	40.4	(117.8)
FY24 Total	2,403.0	3,138.4	360.3	2,099.0	530.2	8,530.9

Note: amounts reflect unduplicated appropriations.

Source: JFO Fiscal Year 2024 Budget¹

OVERVIEW:

This budget addresses many of the ongoing challenges Vermont faces as the State continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also fills all statutorily-required reserves and makes essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, environment, and paid family and medical leave. The bill also reserves funds for the child care bill. To put this budget together, the House Appropriations Committee worked with House standing committees and many interested stakeholders, including members of the public that testified at public hearings or submitted written testimony. General Fund (GF) appropriations total \$2.4B. All funds (unduplicated) total \$8.5B. Compared to the FY 2023 budget as adjusted, this reflects a GF increase of \$303M and all funds decrease of \$118M. This total includes \$227M of one-time GF appropriations.

BASE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS:

- Increases rates to health care and human service providers including Dental Services, Primary Care, Designated and Specialized Service Agencies, Assistive Community Care Services, Adult Days, Home Health Services, Nursing Homes, Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) and Private Non-Medical Institutions (PNMI).
- Funds caseload increases in Medicaid, DAIL Developmental Services, and Reach Up.
- Increases funds to Recovery Centers, including Jenna’s Promise.
- Funds therapeutic alternatives to emergency departments in the Northeast Kingdom region.
- Sets aside funds to support the child care and early education bill.
- Funds General Assistance emergency housing with a \$7.5M base increase and \$18.9M one-time.
- Provides \$3.75M to DCF to expand shelter capacity.
- Increases base funding to DCF for Family Supportive Housing.
- Adds \$2M base to support the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP).
- Maintains funding for the Community High School of Vermont in the GF.
- Adds \$500K to Legal Aid for existing staff and adds \$250K to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- Adds \$480K to DCF for the Mentoring Program to bring the base up to a total of \$650K.
- Adds \$2M to DCF for the Parent Child Centers’ grants.
- Adds 3 positions to DAIL’s Office of Public Guardian and creates 9 quality assurance and compliance oversight positions.
- Adds \$150K to create a Dementia Coordinator position in DAIL.
- Adds \$1.15M to DMH for mobile crisis response.
- Adds \$1M to the Area Agencies on Aging for an increase to the senior meals program.
- Shifts three environmental justice positions to base funding at ANR.

¹ The full Big Bill web report is available at:

https://jfo.vermont.gov/custom_reports/webreports/webreports/web/FY2024%20Big%20Bill%20Web%20Report%203-29-2023%208_20_06%20AM.html



- Adds \$10M Property Transfer Tax (PTT) to VHCB for a total base of \$21.5M and \$1.5M PTT to Regional Planning Commissions for a total base of \$6.2M.
- Funds VSAC's 802 Opportunity grant program at \$3.4M in base and Trades scholarships at \$1M in base.
- Provides \$2.5M base in Vermont State College's transformation funding.

ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

- Incorporates the Workforce and Economic Development Opportunities bill (H.484). Sec. B.1101 contains the appropriations and F sections contain the policy language.
- Sec. B.1105 includes appropriations totaling \$39.9M from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund (formerly Capital Expenditure Cash Fund), as recommended by the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions. The appropriations are funded through a \$32M GF transfer in Sec. D.101(a)(1)(E) and a \$7.3M prior-year balance in the fund.

HOUSING:

- Adds \$18.9M for Adverse weather and hybrid emergency housing program.
- Adds \$50M to VHCB for affordable housing development.
- Funds the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) with \$10M.
- Provides \$500K to ACCD for Municipal Bylaw Modernization Grants.
- Encourages the Treasurer's Office to utilize the "10% in Vermont" (Local Investment Advisory Committee program) to fund the Missing Middle Program.
- Adds \$2.5M for Housing Opportunity (HOP) grants at DCF.

HUMAN SERVICES:

- Provides \$1M for refugee resettlement assistance and needs assessment.
- Funds the first year of a two-year pilot for Blueprint Hub and Spoke expansion.
- Provides \$10M GF to AHS to address COVID emergent & exigent circumstances affecting health care providers.
- Appropriates \$10.5M GF to AHS for match related to Medicaid redeterminations.
- Provides \$1.59M GF to VDH for the Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition.
- Provides \$2M GF to DCF for a two-year Reach Ahead pilot.
- Adds \$1M to DCF for a grant to the Vermont Foodbank to address food insecurity.
- Adds \$985K to DMH for Soteria House for the purchase and renovation of a facility.
- Funds \$1M one-time to VDH for Recovery Housing.
- Adds \$500K one-time to DCF for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.

OTHER COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS NEEDS:

- Adds \$8M to ACCD – Department of Economic Developments for Brownfields Redevelopment.
- Provides \$1M TF to AOT for a grant to Green Mountain Transit to operate routes on a zero-fare basis and prepare for the transition to tiered-fare service.
- Adds \$1M to the Public Service Department for the Vermont Access Network.

OTHER STATE INVESTMENTS:

- Adds \$3M GF for ANR – Clean Heat Homes initiative.
- Reallocates \$5M ARPA SFR funds to ANR for the Healthy Homes Initiative.
- Adds \$900K to ANR for Climate Office technical analysis, tools, and training
- Appropriates \$7.5M to ADS for network and system modernization. Also reserves \$4.68M for the Judiciary's Network and Security Modernization project.
- Funds VSC – CCV 50% Tuition Reduction for workforce priorities at \$4M.
- Provides \$9M in bridge funding for VSC including \$5.18M ARPA SFR and \$3.82M GF.