



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**Request for Consultant Services for the Task Force on Affordable, Accessible Health Care**

The nonpartisan Legislative Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is seeking the services of one or more consultants and/or consulting firms to provide technical and research assistance to the Task Force on Affordable, Accessible Health Care. JFO is amenable to dividing up the required tasks among consultants.

*Background*

Sec. E.126b of Act 74 (H.439) created the Task Force on Health Care Affordable, Accessible Health Care to explore opportunities to make health care more affordable for Vermont residents and employers.<sup>1</sup> The Task Force, made up of six legislative members, is charged with exploring opportunities to make health care more affordable for Vermont residents and employers, including identifying potential opportunities to leverage federal flexibility and financing and to expand existing public health care programs. In completing its work, the Task Force must:

- 1) Keep in mind the principles for health care reform enacted in 2011 Acts and Resolves No.48 and codified at 18 V.S.A. § 9371;<sup>2</sup>
- 2) identify the primary drivers of health insurance premium increases in Vermont;
- 3) review the findings and recommendations from previous studies and analyses relating to the affordability of health care coverage in Vermont;
- 4) determine actions the State can take without federal assistance to address the unmet health care needs of Vermont residents and employers;
- 5) analyze the long-term trends in out-of-pocket costs in Vermont in individual and small group health insurance plans and in large group health insurance plans; and
- 6) identify opportunities to decrease health care disparities, especially those highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and those attributable to a lack of access to affordable health care services.

*Scope of work*

The consultant(s) will provide technical and research assistance to the Task Force in fulfilling the charge set forth in Sec. E.126b of Act 74 with a primary focus on monitoring and reviewing opportunities made available by the Biden Administration to expand access to affordable health care through existing public health care programs or through emerging opportunities to address unmet health care needs of Vermont residents and employers.

*Deliverables*

On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force and the consultant(s) shall brief the leadership of the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on their preliminary findings.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT074/ACT074%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/220/09371>

On or before January 15, January 15, 2022, the Task Force and the consultant(s) shall present to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and on Finance their findings and recommendations regarding the most cost-effective ways to expand access to affordable health care for Vermonters without health insurance and those facing high health care costs and the various options available to implement these recommendations.

#### *Contract Period*

The proposed start date is on or before August 15, 2021. The consultant(s) shall remain available to assist the legislative committees of jurisdiction as needed throughout the 2022 legislative session.

#### *Consultant Qualifications*

The JFO will be looking for interested parties with experience with health care reform, an understanding of commercial and government payers and cost drivers, proficiency at navigating and interpreting federal rules and regulations, and the ability to assist the legislature in understanding and identifying potential opportunities made available at the federal level regarding expanding access to affordable health care.

#### *Submission*

Interested parties should provide a description of qualifications and experiences, including a list of any work done for other entities in Vermont to [JFORFP@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JFORFP@leg.state.vt.us) no later than July 27, 2021. Interested parties should also include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two references who can speak knowledgeably about your performance. Interest parties may express interest in part or all of this request for consultant services.

#### *Questions and Answers*

A question and answer document can be found [here](#):  
[https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/325854ae85/QA\\_-\\_Health\\_Care\\_Task\\_Force.pdf](https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/325854ae85/QA_-_Health_Care_Task_Force.pdf)