

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) works with providers and community partners to sustain and improve Vermont's substance use system of care. In addition to continuous quality improvement efforts, DSU leads large scale initiatives to enhance service delivery and tailor funding to meet the needs of our state including enhancing our opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment system and increasing access to services.

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Enhancements

Hub and Spoke is Vermont's system of treatment for OUD. Nine Regional Hubs offer daily support for patients with complex addiction. Over 75 local Spokes offer ongoing OUD treatment integrated with healthcare and wellness services.

Hub Expansion Pilot

The Agency for Human Services received approval from the Vermont State Legislature in June 2023 for a two-year Hub and Spoke Expansion pilot (Act 78). The goal is to enhance the quality, depth and breadth of care for people with substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring conditions, emphasizing mental health, physical health and polysubstance use disorders.

Medication Dosing Units (MDU)

This expansion also includes the implementation of satellite locations to provide Medication Dosing Units (MDU), with the intention of increasing geographic equity in access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for Vermonters (Act 22).

Expanding SUD Services Access Under 1115 Waiver

Over the last 15 years, [Vermont's Global Commitment to Health demonstration, authorized under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act \(the Act\)](#), has expanded health coverage. Section 1115 of the Social Security Act permits the federal government to approve demonstrations (aka "waivers") that waive specific requirements of federal Medicaid law. In 2022, Vermont received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand 1115 initiatives intended to enhance and expand access to critical SUD treatment and recovery services across the state.

Recovery Services

The Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) has received approval from CMS to develop a benefit for people on Medicaid that would reimburse for direct recovery services.

Withdrawal Management

Vermont intends to enhance access to withdrawal management throughout the state by establishing it as reimbursable for people covered under the Medicaid State Plan.

For more information, contact ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov, with subject line "2024 Annual Overview: SUD System of Care Enhancements."