

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
April 15, 1997

COST PER RECIPIENT RANKING

Our system of services for people with developmental disabilities is heavily reliant on Medicaid funding. In February, we noted that in contrast to states that maintain institutions and large intermediate care facilities (ICF/MR), we have converted virtually all of our service recipients to the Medicaid Home and Community Based waiver. This move made financial as well as programmatic sense. The average per person cost of waiver services has decreased by 12% since the closure of the Brandon Training School in 1993 and continues to decline.

As a result of this move to community services, Vermont's data on waiver utilization and per participant costs tends to be higher than other states (14th nationally). However, when the costs of all long term care services are combined, waiver plus ICF/MR, Vermont's ranking falls significantly to about the nationwide average.

New figures about to be released by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services on the consolidated costs of Medicaid long term services for 1996 (waiver + ICF/MR) shows Vermont ranking 29th among all states, for total average cost per recipient. We expect these numbers to drop further when the data for 1997 are included. Our average costs for combined waiver and ICF/MR services are lower than every New England state except New Hampshire.

State Cost/Recipient Ranking

Connecticut	2
New York	3
Maine	4
Rhode Island	8
Massachusetts	17
Vermont	29
New Hampshire	30

For additional information, contact Theresa Wood at the Division of Developmental Services; phone:(802) 241-2614, e-mail: twood@ddmhs.state.vt.us