

FY2026 PAIR PRIORITIES

Case acceptance is based on four factors:

- (1) the client qualifies for PAIR services;**
- (2) the case is within the PAIR priorities;**
- (3) the case has merit (sufficient evidence to support the claim); and**
- (4) there are sufficient staff resources to take on the case.**

Funding Disclaimer: These priorities are established based on projected FY2025 funding levels. Outcome targets are subject to proportional adjustment in the event of changes to the final funding amount.

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<i>Objective</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Annotations</i>
Goal A. People with disabilities have access to needed health care/long term care.	Priority A1: Represent individuals with disabilities seeking access to needed health care and long term care when issue is disability, duration of services, covered services_or due process.	
	Priority A2: Engage in legal and systems advocacy to maintain or increase access to health care treatment and protection and_due process issues such as adequacy of denial/termination/reduction notices. Comment on proposed Health Care Administration Rules (HCAR) and other proposed rules affecting access to health care for people with disabilities. Monitor Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB).	
Goal B: Ensure access to appropriate services/supports in the least restrictive and most integrated settings.	Priority B1: Advocate for people with disabilities in nursing homes, long-term care homes, correctional facilities, in-patient hospital settings and other restrictive settings for whom appropriate services/supports may be available in more integrated settings.	
	Priority B2: Provide counsel and advice, and where resources permit, full representation to preserve housing for individuals at risk of losing housing and being placed in more restrictive, less integrated settings or becoming homeless.	
Goal C: Provide advocacy to ensure that adults and children	Priority C1: Where appropriate, conduct investigations of allegations of abuse, neglect or	

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with disabilities living independently, in institutions, or in parental, family, or group or homes, are free from abuse, neglect or rights violations.	exploitation of adults or children with disabilities. Make referrals to Adult Protective Services (APS) or Department for Children and Families (DCF) where appropriate.	
	Priority C2: Engage in systems advocacy to ensure Vermont's compliance with laws relating to the protection of vulnerable adults and children.	
Goal D: Provide advocacy to Improve access to government services and programs as provided in Title II of the ADA.	Priority D1: Provide individual advocacy in response to client complaints about accessibility and lack of accommodations in government services such as higher education, Reach Up, judicial and corrections systems - including people with disabilities who have been victims of crime, and parents with disabilities in the child protection system.	
	Priority D2: Provide technical assistance to Communication Support Project and support to its management as resources permit to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive communication support in judicial and other proceedings.	
	Priority D3: Engage in legal and systems advocacy to insure that state and local emergency planning efforts include considering the needs of people with disabilities. Assistance will be offered should a residential care or nursing home desire help in preparing a disaster plan.	

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Goal E: Provide advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities receive needed accommodations and are not discriminated against in housing.	Priority E1: Engage in legal and systems advocacy to expand the stock of accessible housing in Vermont, both physically accessible and accessible to people with sensory disabilities, and other disabilities.	
Goal F: Provide advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities are not discriminated against in hiring, employment and advancement	Priority F1: Provide individual advocacy in response to client allegations of disability-based discrimination in employment. Provide short-term interventions where client needs assistance due to disability in Attorney General's or Human Right's Commission's investigation and mediation processes.	
Goal G: Provide advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities will have increased access to businesses open to the public.	Priority G1: Provide advocacy and legal services in response to client complaints about accessibility and lack of accommodations in public facilities, including health care and institutions of higher education.	
Goal H: Provide advocacy to ensure access to Social Security and Unemployment Insurance.	Priority H1: Provide counsel and advice and, where resources permit, full representation to individuals to ensure access to Unemployment Insurance.	
	Priority H2: Engage in systems advocacy to ensure full access for people with disabilities to Unemployment Insurance.	
	Priority H3: Provide counsel and advice and, where resources permit, full representation to individuals experiencing social security benefits issues, specifically related to overpayments, benefits eligibility cessation, and understanding the application process and requirements.	

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