

Gather
Share
Nurture



Vermont Foodbank

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October 27, 2021

Green Mountain Care Board
GMCB.Board@vermont.gov

Re: One Care Vermont 2022 Budget

Dear Chairman Mullin and Board Members,

I am writing as the CEO of the Vermont Foodbank (Foodbank) and a member of the OneCare Vermont (OneCare) board of managers to urge the Board to approve OneCare's 2022 budget. The All Payer Model (APM) states that "CMS and Vermont . . . aim for this Model to deliver meaningful improvements in the health of a state's entire population by transforming the relationships between and amongst care delivery and public health systems across Vermont." OneCare is doing just that. From the Foodbank's perspective, a population-level focus is essential to addressing both hunger and health. Investing in population health, prevention of chronic illness, and a system of value-based care creates incentive for our Vermont providers to focus on food security and proper nutrition. Focusing on patients' nutrition needs strengthens health provider partnerships with the Foodbank and helps us meet our vision of a Vermont where everyone has enough nourishing food to eat every day, everyone is healthy, and everyone takes action to end hunger and poverty.

The Vermont Foodbank is proud to be involved in several Accountable Communities for Health around Vermont, and very much sees health care as a partner in solving hunger and its affects. We are partnering with OneCare's FQHC members to further incorporate nourishing food into patient's lives through their health providers. OneCare's ability to produce risk scores based on the social determinants of health can lead not only to the food insecure getting connected to health care, but also as a predictor of future food insecurity. No one hospital or health system in Vermont has or seeks that capacity. Strong analytics from OneCare will not only serve OneCare's provider members, it will have ripple benefits throughout Vermont.

OneCare is an investment in Vermont's future. There is no "plan B" for continuing a value-based care framework, systemically addressing population health, or providing data insights for Vermont's provider community. I strongly urge you to approve OneCare's 2022 budget to keep us moving toward a healthier future.

Sincerely,


John Sayles, CEO

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