

525 Clinton Street
Bow, NH 03304
Voice: 603-228-2830
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Voice: 802-229-0002
Fax: 802-223-2336

BI-STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

2017 Vermont Public Policy Principles and Priorities

Public Policy Principles

Bi-State is committed to improving the health status of Vermonters and ensuring that all individuals have access to affordable and high-quality primary medical, mental health, substance abuse, and oral health care, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

We support the state's efforts to move to a universal and unified health care delivery system and ensure universally available health access and insurance coverage. We support investments in public health and primary and preventive care. Our work aims to preserve, strengthen and expand Vermont's community-based primary care safety-net providers, recognizing that these organizations are integral to the lives of one in three Vermonters and are the foundation of healthy communities statewide.

Public Policy Priorities

Bi-State works through effective partnerships and robust engagement with the Governor and the Administration, State Legislature, Green Mountain Care Board, and other partners to:

- Ensure every Vermonter has access to a primary care medical home with particular attention to underserved Vermonters
- Advocate for delivery system and payment models that invest in, build upon, and prioritize community-based primary care, specifically that sustain and enhance the FQHC and RHC models of care delivery and reimbursement
- Build on the successes of Blueprint for Health, ensuring substantial investment in patient-centered medical homes and empowering local care communities
- Close coverage gaps for uninsured Vermonters and affordability gaps for under-insured Vermonters
- Promote population health and well-being through support of public health goals and population health initiatives
- Establish strong community-based partnerships that support patients through transitions across care settings
- Increase investments to integrate mental health/substance abuse and primary care
- Integrate coverage for and expand access to oral health
- Invest in preventive services, early intervention, wellness initiatives, and health education
- Support primary care practitioners in care management and patient engagement for patients with chronic conditions
- Sustain the 340B pharmacy program to ensure continued access to low cost pharmaceuticals
- Increase funding for Vermont Medicaid, and ensure continued investment in primary care
- Invest in comprehensive workforce development strategies including increased federal and state loan repayment for health care professionals and funding for national marketing and outreach
- Increase access to and funding for telemedicine services to improve access to services for Vermont's rural and underserved populations
- Sustain federal payment "floors" and framework for FQHC and RHC infrastructure, initiatives, and services to improve access to comprehensive primary care for the uninsured and underinsured
- Sustain state funding for the Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured