Public Policy Principles

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

We believe that community-based, accessible, and affordable primary care for all Vermonters is the foundation for successful health reform in Vermont. 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 the increased investments in comprehensive integrated primary preventive care that will cost-effectively improve the health of all Vermonters. 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 continued access to primary care using a cost-effective workforce and 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 proven and cost-effective community-based primary care -- specifically that sustain and enhance the Federally-Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Center models of care delivery and reimbursement.
• Build on the successes of the Blueprint for Health, ensuring substantial and equitable investment in patient-centered medical homes and empowering local care communities in decision-making through inclusive processes.
• Close coverage gaps for uninsured Vermonters and affordability gaps for under-insured Vermonters.
• Promote population health and well-being through the 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 use disorder, and primary care services.
• 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 and improve state funding for the Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured.
• Sustain and improve state funding for the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC).
• Reduce the amount of administrative burden to Vermont’s health care providers.