THE REAL COSTS OF LIVING IN BURLINGTON, VT

WHAT “COUNTS” AS POVERTY?

According to the federal government, poverty is a single person earning $12,060 or less per year. This equals $1,005 per month. In Vermont,

- 66,200 Vermonters live at or below the Federal Poverty Level
- 97,100 Vermonters live between 100-199% of the Federal Poverty Level

WHO QUALIFIES FOR MEDICAID?

- In Vermont, individuals with modified adjusted gross incomes above $16,647 do not qualify for Medicaid
- Medicaid is the primary source of health care for people living with mental illness and a growing resource for people living with addiction.

REAL NUMBERS, HARD MATH

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL INCOME + NO FRILLS COST OF LIVING

$12,060 + ($33,228)

-$21,168

THE REAL COSTS OF LIVING IN BURLINGTON, VT

A no-frills budget, excluding health care costs, for an individual in Burlington is $33,228.

The cost of living in rural Vermont is $455 less per month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing 1 BR Apartment</td>
<td>$923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food/$9 a day</td>
<td>$271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes/Utilities</td>
<td>$539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (clothing, toiletries, etc)</td>
<td>$577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More than 1 in 5 uninsured adults with an opioid addiction have a serious mental illness.

Nationally, uninsured adults are less likely to have received treatment for addiction than those covered by Medicaid, and drug addiction is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S.

In Vermont, more than 29,600 people have a serious mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or depression. Persons affected by these conditions may benefit from services and supports to improve their ability to obtain and maintain housing, employment, interpersonal relationships and other aspects of a healthy, safe, and satisfied life.

By 2015, over 2 million people were addicted to prescription opioids and 591,000 people were addicted to heroin. In Vermont, 99 people lost their lives to drug overdoses.

People diagnosed with a serious mental illness often qualify for Medicaid through their eligibility for Social Security disability benefits. Individuals who qualify for SSDI receive on average $13,578 per year, and those who qualify for SSI receive up to $8,820 per year. SSDI and SSI are provided to individuals who cannot work due to a serious medical or mental illness, condition, or injury. In most states, eligibility for SSI confers eligibility for Medicaid. Generally, SSDI recipients are eligible for Medicaid after two years, but may also qualify for Medicaid.