



Dear House Appropriations Committee,

We are excited to share that funding for Serve Learn Earn at \$2.37m was included in three House budget memos: House Commerce & Economic Development Committee, the House Environment & Energy Committee, and in the House Agriculture, Food Resiliency, & Forestry Committee.

We are grateful for their support and HAC's past support. For the past three years, Serve Learn Earn with the help of the legislature has been working to strengthen and expand paid service and training opportunities throughout the state. We continue to see powerful results every year. Since 2021, our programs and participants have:

- **Served over 1300 participants**, engaging them in **9,550 weeks of training and service**.
- Earned **over 550 industry-recognized credentials** including high value construction trade certifications in carpentry, weatherization, and HVAC, as well as OSHA-10, logging, and college credit.
- Provided over **\$3.84 million dollars in wages and stipends** to participants as they complete high-priority service projects in climate mitigation and resilience, affordable and accessible housing, food security, outdoor recreation, and education.
- Strengthened our economy by working with **over 370 Vermont employers** in the conservation and building trade sectors who have urgent need for skilled workers.

This year we will work with **over 550 Vermonters through 4,250 weeks of training and service** programming at our partners Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, ReSOURCE, Vermont Works for Women, and Audubon Vermont.

Additionally, the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee has suggested a move from one-time funding to base budget allocation. We understand times are tight for base appropriations, but we strongly support this recommendation, as sustained public funding would enable us to more actively leverage federal and private philanthropy to expand programming geographically, offer new training in high-priority sectors, and to strengthen outcomes for every Vermonters we serve.

We know there is some conversation about moving our program into the DOL, but we believe our partnership with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation in administering our public funds has allowed Serve Learn Earn to flourish. Due to the fact that we work at the nexus of the trades and conservation workforce development, being connected to ANR's work on climate-related infrastructure projects makes sense, especially in light of the on-going flood rebuilding efforts.

Please support Serve Learn Earn with a \$2.37 million allocation in the base FY25 budget. We strongly believe – as do three House policy committees — that investing in paid training and service programs provides Vermonters with direct pathway towards financial stability, strengthens communities and public infrastructure, and allows employers to thrive in every corner of the state.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if any questions arise, we'd welcome any inquires at [kate.gluckman@vycc.org](mailto:kate.gluckman@vycc.org).

With gratitude,

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