

Outcome: Vermonters can meet their basic needs

Indicator: 3SquaresVT Benefits

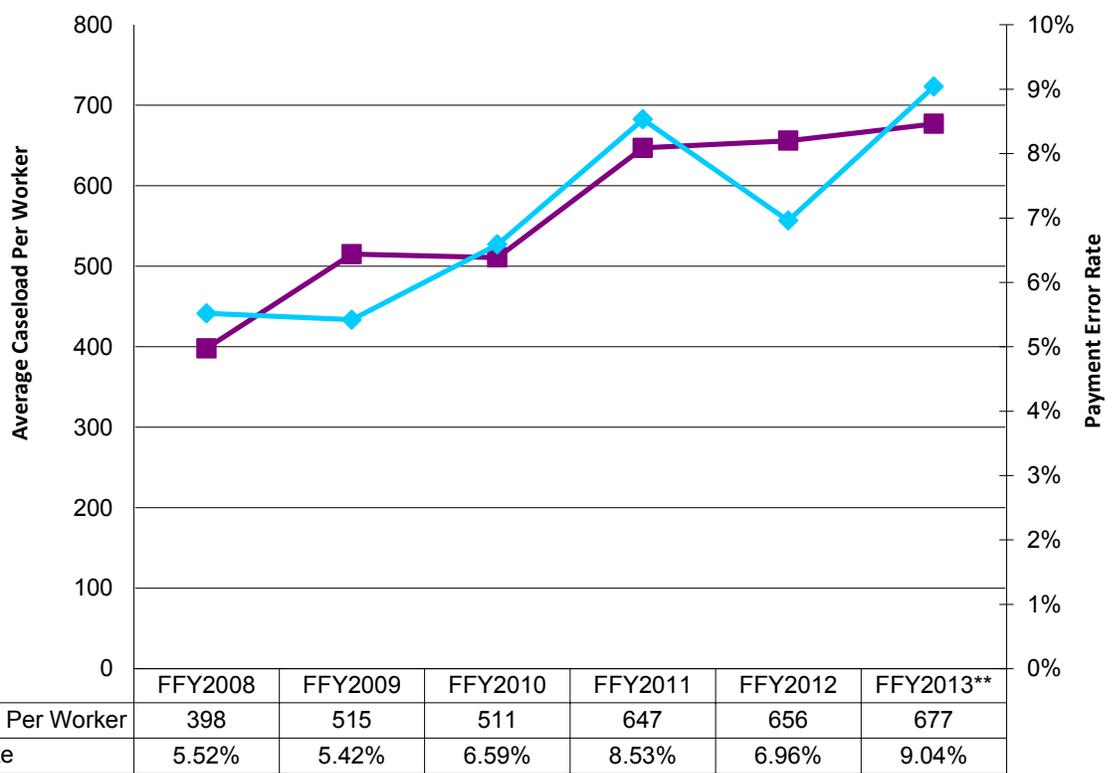
3SquaresVT, which is 100% federally funded, helps reduce hunger in Vermont and stimulates the state's economy (generating \$1.84 in financial benefits for every \$1 spent).

The program provided almost \$149 million in benefits to Vermonters in SFY 2013 and currently provides direct food assistance to about 100,000 Vermonters. While program participation has increased substantially over the past few years, our Payment Error Rate¹ has increased as well.

The USDA's Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) requires states to achieve a payment error rate of no more than 6% when issuing benefits. Vermont's payment error rate rose to 6.59% in FFY 2010 and 8.53% in FFY 2011, mainly due to significant caseload increases and a high ratio of cases to staff. While the error rate went down to 6.96% in FFY 2012, it is currently on track to rise to 9.04% in FFY 2013.

¹ The *Payment Error Rate* indicates the percentage of total households who did not receive the correct amount of benefits.

3SquaresVT Caseload Per Worker* & Payment Error Rate



* Caseload per worker data is based on SFY, while the Payment Error Rates are based on FFY

** 2013 is based on 8 months of data from Federal Fiscal Year 2013